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OF

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,

RURAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY,

AND THE

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SPORTING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

FOR THE YEAR 1840.

By JOHN D. LEGARE, Editor.

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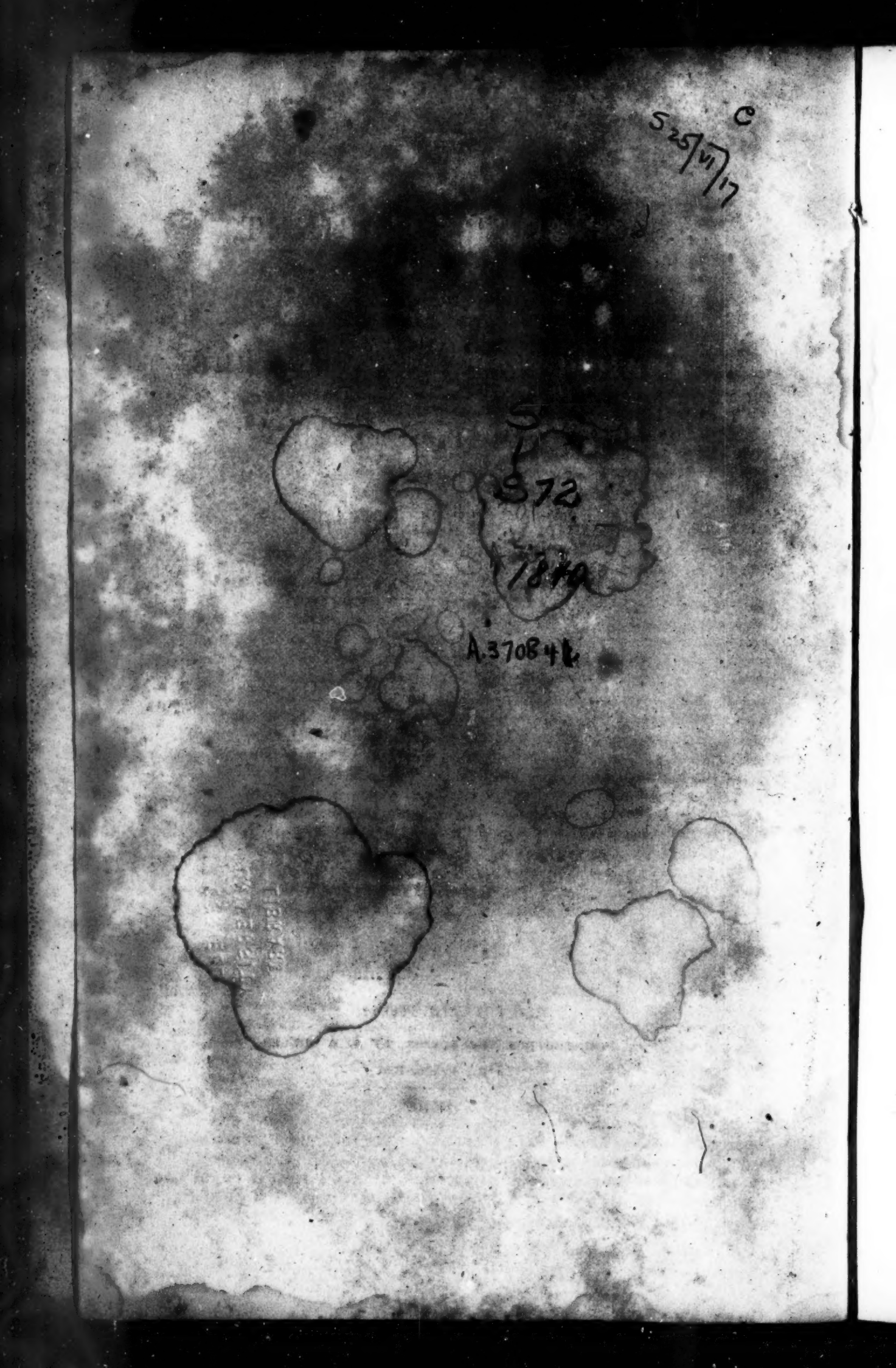
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THE SOUTHERN CABINET.

VOL. 1. JANUARY, 1840. No. 1.

For the Southern Cabinet.

NOTES ON EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

BY A CHARLESTONIAN.

NUMBER ONE.

THE American Traveller who visits Europe for the first time, is introduced so suddenly upon such a variety of objects, equally new and interesting to him, that he finds it difficult to confine himself to any department of science or knowledge. Scarcely has he shaken off the tedium of a long sea voyage, and recovered the use of his legs, and the steadiness of his head, when his mind is distracted by a multiplicity of objects, all inviting his attention, and each claiming the precedency. He now visits for the first time, scenes of which he read in his youth, and which, from their antiquity and early recollections, have become classic grounds. He traverses the fields of tournaments and battles—he climbs Ben-Lomond and the Alps—he ascends the Rhine and the Danube—he sails over the smooth waters of the lakes of Scotland and Switzerland—he visits the thronged cities of London and Paris, Berlin and Vienna, and finds a world of wonders in each,—and who, Mr. Editor, has time or inclination to attend to the dull scenes of Agriculture?

I confess that this was in part my own case. A very extensive tour during the short summer of 1839, enabled me only to take a cursory view of the Agriculture of Europe—other objects engaged the principal part of my attention. My notes were made hastily, and never corrected. Such, however, as they are, I will give you. But I must be allowed to do it in my own rambling way, and in my own time. I need not say that the Southern planter will find nothing in my notes that will throw any light on the cultivation of the staple articles of our Southern country. Cotton and rice, although abundant in the warehouses and manufactories, and although feeding and clothing half Europe, are not cultivated there, and Indian Corn (in consequence of the cool summers) I only saw growing at one place in Baden, and the stalks were not much larger than a pipe stem. Yet in the cultivation of other articles—in the rotation of crops—in the system of manuring, and other modes of restoring and improving exhausted lands, we have much to learn from the older countries of Europe, where a dense population has taught them the value of lands, and the necessity of calling in the aids of science and the arts in their cultivation.

As a general remark, I am disposed to believe that Europe in general, and England in particular, is more favorable to the cultivation of wheat, and other grains, which go under the denomination of corn, than the United States, with the exception perhaps of our Western country; but that our own soil can, by a proper system of tillage, be rendered twice as productive as it is at present. That improvements in implements of husbandry can be more easily introduced among us than in Europe, where it is exceedingly difficult to induce the laborers to lay aside the old heavy ploughs and wooden-toothed harrows, which we have abandoned for half a century; and when I have seen the miserable hoes, spades and rakes, used by the peasants of France and Austria, I have sometimes wished that a revolution (not political, but agricultural) might sweep them and their wooden shoes into oblivion together, to be remembered only as the relics of a clumsy, if not a barbarous age.

In fine breeds of horses, horned cattle and sheep, suited to the different climates and pastures—and in the careful manner in which these distinct varieties are kept separate, Great Britain takes the lead of the world. The black faced sheep of Scotland differs so widely from the varieties found in the downs and low countries of England, that they would scarcely be recognized as the same species. The same may be said of the black cattle driven from the highlands to the markets of Edinburgh, and the Northern counties of England, when compared with the various breeds found in the Lothians of Scotland, and in the level rich counties of England. Each variety is confined to localities suited to its size and habits. The mountain cattle and sheep would not succeed well in the low countries, nor would the breeds of the downs thrive on the mountains. No traveller in England who knows a horse from a donkey, can fail to admire the distinct breeds of horses, each in their nature admirably adapted to the services required of them. The carriage-horse, the hunter, the dray-horse, and the racer, can be distinguished at a single glance. The dray-horse in the streets of Liverpool and London, unwieldy as the elephant, with a foot of the size of a peck tub, could scarcely be conceived to be the same species as the little Shetland pony, that is seen carrying the groups of gay travellers to the top of Ben-Lomond, climbing over the rocks and up the mountain like so many squirrels. I witnessed at Ratisbon, in Bavaria, one of the finest collections of horses I ever beheld. They were owned by the Prince of Taxus, whose expensive stables were more magnificent than many of the palaces of Europe, —fitted up with marble troughs—fountains for bathing—the name, country, and pedigree of each, placed in gilt letters on the wall. The number of grooms, and careful attendance, and other fooleries, reminded me of what I had read of the honors paid to the sacred Bulls of India, or the white Elephants of Ava. Among these were horses not only from Mecklenburg, Saxony and France, but from England and Arabia; and to me the English courser appeared not only the most elegant in form, but was admitted by better judges than myself, more active and fleet than those of Arabia itself.

In the preservation of seeds of grain and vegetables, infinitely more pains are taken to preserve the varieties distinct and unadulterated than with us. In the mountains of Scotland, there are certain districts appropriated solely to the cultivation of Garden seeds—and no two varieties, that are in danger of becoming adulterated by being placed near each oth-

er, are allowed to be cultivated in the same district. I noticed, at Edinburgh, in the collection of Lawson & Son, Seedsmen and Nurserymen to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland—83 varieties of Wheat, 62 of Peas, 51 of Turnips, 146 of Potatoes, and an immense number of species and varieties of Grass seeds, some of which may probably be adapted to our Southern country. In a subsequent number, I will endeavor to recur to this latter subject, and point out those species on which it would be advisable to make experiments.

The benefits of Societies for the promotion of Agriculture, in stimulating industry and ambition, I saw exemplified in Scotland, England, and at the Fairs of Germany. The Highland Society of Scotland has existed sixty-one years, and from one of the bleakest and most sterile countries of Europe, Scotland has, with all its disadvantages, risen to a state of agricultural prosperity, far beyond any thing which could have been expected from such a soil and climate; and some of the counties, especially the Lothians, are not inferior, in point of cultivation and product, to the richest in England. At a meeting of that Society, held a few weeks previous to my arrival, 177 members were added at one time, paying three guineas entrance, and one guinea annually, and these included the names of the most respectable men in the country. At this meeting, there was an additional sum of £1,500 ($7,000) subscribed, to promote the interests of the Society. Every agricultural county makes an annual report, and thus thirty-three reports, embracing every object of agricultural interest, are annually submitted to the Society.*

* This Society was founded in 1784, by a few gentlemen, who "formed themselves into a hole and corner club, in a coffee house called the Exchange," in Edinburgh. From a most wretched state they have raised the agriculture of Scotland, until it has reached the very topmost rank. The means which were employed by this society, are thus detailed in the Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Agriculture:

"In the days of its youth and feebleness, the Highland Society sent the leaven of the turnep husbandry into all the glens and straths of the north, by offers of small prizes to certain Highland parishes; and the same may be said as to the growth of clover and the finer grasses. As it advanced in strength, (as to numbers and to cash,) attention was to premiums for stock; then came offers of reward to men of science to discover better implements and machines, to diminish friction and consequently draught, such as in the thrashing mill and other parts of agricultural machinery. Still advancing in the scale of intellect and of science, premiums were offered for essays to bring to light the facts connected with chemistry and natural philosophy; and, under the auspices of the society was set up the 'Quarterly Journal of Agriculture,' a work which has been the vehicle of conveying so much useful information to the agriculturist, that we humbly venture to say it ought to appear on the table and book shelf of every farmer's parlor. After this, the great stock shows were resolved upon, as another link of union between the society and the practical farmer, at the same time throwing aside all paltry feeling, and making them open to stock from both sides of the Tweed, [i. e. from England as well as Scotland.] How well they have succeeded, let the last one at Glasgow bear witness. (This was the most splendid show of fine cattle ever exhibited.) Nor has the Society forgotten the beauty of the country, as the premiums offered in regard to planting trees and such like subjects fully testify; and to sum up all, it may be said, the Highland Society has been a *point d' appui*, a rallying point, to which the agriculturists of Scotland might look, and a fostering mother to all who, although strong in talent, were weak in interest to make it public."

Premiums to the amount of $17,000 were offered the last year, under the following classification:

"Class I.—Agricultural machinery, 500 sovereigns and a gold and silver medal.

Class II.—Essays and report on various subjects, embracing thirty-one subjects of high interest to the farmer, viz.:

1. Geological surveys.
2. Reports on coal districts.
3. Mines and minerals.
4. Products of peat moss, &c.
5. Comparison between different kinds of manure in raising potatoes.
6. Extended application of water and other power to farm purposes.

English Agricultural Societies, although with less uniformity, are sedulously engaged in the same cause, and the result has been the general diffusion of agricultural knowledge. The different soils have been analyzed—the kinds of manures and modes of cultivation adapted to each, have been pointed out. The steam engine has been introduced in threshing and for other agricultural purposes, and Great Britain, (including Ireland and Scotland) which formerly averaged only nine bushels of Wheat to the acre, last year produced in the aggregate, 19½ bushels; and three of the counties of Scotland, and several of England, averaged 51 bushels to the acre. A Farmer by the name of Thomas Oliver, residing five or six miles from Edinburgh, leased a farm for the last twenty years, of 150 acres, paying annually a rent of 10 guineas per acre, ($7,500) on which he raised grain, hay and vegetables for the market of Edinburgh. This lease he has recently renewed for nineteen years, (the usual time to which leases run) on the same terms, and from a poor man he has become independent in his circumstances, and now rides in his carriage. What American Farmer could make a profit that would enable him to pay such an enormous rent? All may be accounted for on the principles of judicious manuring and careful industrious

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7. Comparative efficacy of the two modes of thorough draining.
8. Reports on irrigation.
9. Forest planting.
10. Sheep pastures at high elevations.
11. Improved sheep salve.
12. On crossing the Cheviot with the New Leicester ram.
13. Cultivation of the recently introduced cereal and other grains.
14. Feeding farm horses on raw and prepared food.
15. Early rearing and fattening of lambs.
16. Insects injurious to agricultural plants.
17. Insects injurious to forest trees.
18. Comparative nutritive property of grasses.
19. Extirpating ferns from pastures.
20. Thorough-draining.
21. Subsoil plowing of thorough-drained land.
22. Mole plow.
23. Experiments with manures.
24. Analysis of bone or rape dust.
25. On the effects of altitude on vegetation.
26. Feeding of Cattle.
27. Forests of larch.
28. On raising improved varieties of grains.
29. Reports on improved rural economy abroad.
30. Honorary premium for reports on certain districts in Scotland.
31. Investigation of certain points connected with the science of agriculture, viz:

An essay or memoir explaining on scientific principles, the mode in which soil operates in producing or facilitating the germination and growth of vegetables.

An essay or memoir describing and proving, on scientific principles, what is the best admixture of the ordinary elements of soil, for promoting the germination and growth of particular vegetables.

An essay or memoir describing, on scientific principles, the mode in which lime operates in rendering the soil better adapted for the germination and growto of particular vegetables.

An essay or memoir explaining, on scientific principles, the effect of drainage in altering the constitution or qualities of the soil, and increasing its fertility.

An essay or memoir, showing the natnre of the atmospheric influence on soil, in promoting its fertility, including the modification of these influences arising from heat and cold, dryness and moisture.

Class III.—Waste lands—their improvement by tillage.
Class IV.—Crops and culture.
Class V.—Pastures—their management.
Class VI.—Live Stock—districts competitors.
Class VII.—Products of live stock—butter and cheese.
Class VIII.—The best kept cottages and cottage gardens.
Class IX.—Woods and plantations.
Class X.—General show of live stock, and agricultural meeting at Inverness."

[*Ed. Sou: Cob*

cultivation. On the continent, especially in Germany, their annual fairs bring together the farmers and peasants of all the surrounding country, where their ambition and industry are stimulated by a variety of fetes, and the distribution of prizes to successful competitors, and whilst Princes, Dukes and Barons are engaged in awarding prizes to those who have been most successful in the cultivation of grains and cattle, their lovely wives are occupied in a humbler, but much more lively scene, in complimenting and distributing premiums to the industrious housewife, for her fine specimens of fruit—her butter and cheese—her linen cloths, weaving, knetting, and other manufactures. I have no doubt I shall be ridiculed for my want of taste, when I state that to me, the Grand Duchess of Baden, presenting a silver cup to a peasant girl, before an assembled crowd of farmers and nobility, for the finest specimen of manufactured gloves, was a more interesting sight than that of the gay Queen Victoria, racing through St. James Park, with fifty fools at her heels, striving not to be distanced by their lovely mistress.

The industry and expense bestowed in collecting and applying manures in England, and which is only exceeded by the more scientific mode adopted in the environs of Paris, at the "Boyanterie de Montfaucon," where all the offal from the city, including every dead animal—(the horses of this description alone amounting annually to 16,000)—is converted into manure, may be noticed in a future number, and is a subject which is not only of great importance to the Farmer, but should be carefully investigated by the authorities of all large cities.

From a cursory review of the cultivation of the various kingdoms of Europe, it appeared to me that England was in the highest state of cultivation, and which, from its beautiful thorn hedges—its neat cottages, adorned by the eglantine, honeysuckle and ivy, chequered here and there by the park and lordly palace, rendered the whole land a picturesque garden. Some of the counties of Scotland, such as the Lothians and the carse of Sterling and Gowrie, are in no wise inferior. The little I saw of the cultivation of Ireland, rather exceeded my expectations. Belgium and portions of the Netherlands, have a better soil than that of England, and are fully as productive, but they want neatness of cultivation, and, like the whole continent of Europe, are destitute of fences and hedges—to me the fields wanted ornament, and the cottages seemed without much comfort. The fields of Denmark were loaded with an abundant crop of wheat, but there, as well as every where else, I heard bitter complaints of hard times, and the severe exactions of Government. I frequently thought that it would be no bad plan for our American grumblers about taxes and oppression, to take a trip to Europe, and learn a wholesome lesson. Take my word for it—it will stop the mouths of demagogues, reconcile them to their own country, and they would return—not as politicians, but Americans, saying, I have sinned against heaven and my native land, and am now only worthy to be called thy son. I found the Grand Duchy of Baden and parts of Wirtemburg, better cultivated than Prussia in general, probably because the soil was more susceptible of improvement. Switzerland is too romantic to be rich—and the Rhine is too classic a stream to be the dull river of commerce, or be surrounded by any thing else than mountains, where the vine clambers along its sides and the ruined castle frowns on its loftiest peaks. In the cultivation of France, I was greatly disappointed—the sword has scarcely had time to be beat into the ploughshare—the sol-

dier finds it hard to stoop to the labor of the harrow and the hoe, and seems disposed, yet a while, to leave this drudgery to the women. Austria, with its fine soil and climate, is retarded in agricultural improvement by the wealth of its nobles and the oppression of its peasantry. Its possessions in Bohemia appeared rather better cultivated than those portions bordering on Hungary and Venice.

Of fruits, I found the apples in England leathery and inferior—on the continent, the flavour was finer—but I give a decided preference to those of my own country. Peaches were every where wanting in flavour. The best I tasted were from a green house near London. The only ones I found growing in the open air that I regarded as in any way comparable to those of America, were at Schaffhausen, at the falls of the Rhine. But whilst the Northern part of Europe does not appear to be well adapted to impart a delicious flavour to the apple and the peach—it greatly excels in other fruits. I find myself growing envious when I think of their fine gooseberries and cherries—the pears and plums of France and Germany are most delicious, and when my notes inform me that I bought the latter, of the size of a fowl's egg, twenty-five for a penny, I feel that I ne'er shall see the like and so cheap again. Were I a cultivator of fruits in Carolina, I would import the few varieties of apple that succeed in our middle and back country, and the peach that succeeds every where, if not attacked by the curculio, from Pennsylvania or New Jersey—the gooseberry and currant, which succeeds among our mountains, from Long Island—the cherry from some of our Northern States—the grape from some of the best varieties cultivated in our upper country—and the pear, plum and prune from Bordeaux; those brought from the latter place, are particularly adapted to the climate of Charleston, and I have seen them cultivated here with great success.

The American traveller in Europe, will not have much time to study their complicated forms of government. He will find the daily journals of England as free and licentious as those of his own country, her politicians as clamorous as those at home, and the houses of lords and commons, about on, or par, with our senate and house of representatives. Men write letters, read newspapers, and do many things in the legislative halls in both countries, that we can scarcely think consistent with the duties required of them. On the continent he will find restrictions on the press which greatly discourage him in seeking after truth. But there are still many things which he can study to great advantage abroad. Their libraries and institutions of education are superior to ours. Their halls of science—their laboratories—their statuary and painting galleries, and museums, are well worthy the attention of our people, and their modes of agriculture, especially in regard to the rotation of crops, the analization of soils, and the best kinds of manure adapted to each, may be successfully introduced into our own country.

In general our Americans do not attend to these matters whilst in Europe. There is one class so truly republican in sentiment, that they go abroad with their preconceived notions of independence, and because they find the institutions of foreigners differing from their own, they go grumbling from Dan to Bersheba, inciting John Bull to be gruff, and show his horns in return, and causing the polite Frenchman to shrug his shoulders and stare, and he returns about as wise as when he went, with the loss of his time, his money, and his temper. Another class with, perhaps, more money and good nature, are so pliable in temper, that

they seem ready to sink the American, and throw off their republican simplicity. To them, there is glory enough, to have dined or hunted with a lord and bowed to a prince. These usually return with a great deal of self-complacency, having been taught the newest waltz, wearing the finest Parisian coat, and sporting a pair of mustachios sufficient to cause our plain citizens to stare with astonishment. There is yet another small class with which I have not the vanity to rank myself, who endeavour while in Europe, to collect materials which may render them serviceable to their own native land. Their arrival is not announced by any pompous titles,—they are neither found at the court of princes, or levees of ambassadors; but pursuing their unobtrusive course, they are found in the halls of science—in the public libraries, and at the book stores, plodding their way from one institution of learning to another, attending from day to day at the laboratory, and on the lectures of scientific men, and sending home books on science, education and agriculture, together with seeds and plants that might enrich their native country. I wish this class was more numerous. They can travel through Europe without a title,—they carry it with them in their conduct, and, I confess, when I heard from week to week of a few of our Americans who had preceded me:—of President Bache of Philadelphia,—Professor Henry of Princeton, and Edward Harris Esq. of New-Jersey: the one examining the schools and colleges,—the other visiting the laboratories, and the third investigating the modes of agriculture; and when I heard of their gentlemanly deportment, their zeal in pursuit of knowledge, and when their love of country was evidenced by their labours in her behalf, I confess, I felt proud to own them as my countrymen.

TO BE CONTINUED.

For the Southern Cabinet.

THE SOILS OF ALABAMA.

Dear Sir,—You request me to give you some information relative to the soils, products, and cultivation, &c. in the State of Alabama. My experience on the subject has not been great, and my travelling about that State limited. I will, however, give you the result of such observations as I have made.

The soil of Alabama is almost entirely impregnated with lime, and is divided, as this predominates, into two great classes—sandy and prairie. The sandy soil includes all the varieties, from the rich alluvial of the low grounds to the poorest spot on the hills, and is, therefore, not to be understood in the sense in which the term is generally applied in South-Carolina as connected with sterility, as some of the most productive and valuable lands come under this general head. The prairie, which from its peculiar nature and appearance, forms the other general term, is not divided into as many classes as the sandy lands, but is generally comprehended under the denomination of wooded and bald prairie; but these are susceptible of other divisions, as the black land, the post-oak prairie, &c.

The soil, which comes under the denomination of sandy, which is most highly prized from its productions, durability, and the ease with which it is cultivated when once put in order, is the rich alluvial lands on the water courses, which though of a firm texture, and in wet weather of a soapy nature, are not prairie. These lands, from the gigantic growth of the timber with which they are covered, renders the clearing heavy, and the immediate cultivation unproductive from the number of long lived trees, as the gum, beach and pine, with which they abound, and which will retain their foliage for two years after the sap vessels are destroyed, but when fairly brought into cultivation, they have yielded, to my knowledge, three thousand weight of seed cotton to the acre, and from one field of thirty acres, I have known upwards of two thousand bushels of corn housed; the peas and pumpkins though abundant, are generally fed to the stock as they grow in the field. This is, however, not the average product, and from fifteen to seventeen hundred weight of cotton, or from forty-five to fifty bushels of corn is considered a fair crop. The low grounds sometimes consist of a strong, rich, black prairie soil, equal in product to any land in Alabama, but are much colder in their nature, and therefore, do not admit of being put into cultivation as early, and are more liable to have the crops cut short by frost in the early part of October, an instance of which occurred about two years ago, when the whole crop was killed on the morning of the 6th. But if the season is dry even to the destruction of some of the high land crops, the product from these lands is immense. I visited in November last, the plantation of Mr. J. S———, (formerly from St. John's Berkly in this State,) in Wilcox County, near the Dallas Co. line, in company with several gentlemen. We were received and treated with the elegant hospitality so common to the wealthy planters of South-Carolina; and having rode over his fields, were unanimously of opinion that his crop from one hundred and eighty acres of cotton, would far exceed two hundred bales of four hundred and fifty weight, one hundred and sixty of which were packed, and he had literally to build new barns to house his corn, and the peas and pumpkins that covered his fields were the personification of abundance. These lands are very difficult to cultivate in a wet season, and by no means yield the same product. Of the sandy lands, those termed (chocolate from the colour of the soil, which are not unlike what are called the mulatto lands in Abbeville district,) are the most delightful lands to cultivate. They are neither affected by drought or wet, are generally healthy, well supplied with water, and yield an average product of 1000 to 1200 weight of seed cotton to the acre, and from thirty-five to forty bushels of corn. The cane-brake lands are of the nature of swamp prairie, productive, but in the highest degree unpleasant to live on in the winter season. The lands of which I have spoken are generally level. But that part of the country which has come under my observation, except immediately on water courses, or the tops of ridges is broken, and the whole face of the country undulating. This in prairie soil is not considered a great disadvantage, for the water running off much quicker allows the ground to dry more readily, and ploughs are frequently seen working on prairie hills when the mules would bog down on the level prairie. The working of these hills is of course more laborious to man and beast, but yield a bountiful reward to the industry of the planter. Horizontal ploughing is yearly becoming more prevalent, which diminishes labour, saves the soil from

washing, and brings into cultivation some lands, which from their precipitous sides, were formerly said to stand and not to lie, and though of the richest prairie were considered of little or no value. These observations apply to what is termed rolling prairie; and although the rolling sandy lands are cultivated and yield good crops for a time, yet from the loose texture of the soil are not durable. The appearance of, and growth on some of the sandy lands, would deceive a planter from the lower part of South-Carolina: for lands of the same appearance which would indicate here not an overabundant crop of cow peas, would there, from the quantity of lime mixed with the soil, produce eight hundred pounds of cotton to the acre.

The bald prairies are free from timber of any kind, (except in clews of black land, and with which they are intersected,)—on these the lime rock is very near the surface,—they have the appearance of old fields, and afford fine pasture in the summer. It is necessary to use vegetable matter with them in the first instance to make them productive, but they increase in value and product from cultivation,—the lime from frequent exposure to the sun and air decomposes, and in the course of time becomes good soil for corn, but will generally rust cotton, particularly if planted several years in succession. Alabama is yet too young to show the result of a desolating system of cultivation; and the agricultural murders that have been committed in the lower parts of South-Carolina and Georgia, which every where present themselves to the eye of the traveller in wasted fields and desolate plantations, will also be seen there if fields are only cleared to be exhausted and new ones brought into cultivation to share the same fate.

It is, however, to be hoped, that as experience has shewn that whole regions of fertile country may become barren from that cause,—that a timely system of manuring may save the now fertile lands of Alabama from sharing the fate of thore of her sister States.

A South-Carolina Alabamian.

OKRA COTTON.

[Report of the Committee of the Agricultural Society of So. Alabama, on Twin or Okra Cotton, at its Fall Meeting in Montgomery, Nov. 5th, 1839.]

The Committee appointed to enquire and report every thing deemed interesting in relation to the Twin Cotton, as far as ascertained, have had the same under consideration and report:

From the very short time that the Twin Cotton has been cultivated, together with the difficulty of procuring the necessary information, your committee are not prepared either to present many facts, or make such suggestions as should have weight with the society. We can only offer for your consideration the little information it has been in our power to obtain. Various has been the opinions entertained as to the origin of the Twin Cotton. Whilst, perhaps a majority contend, that it is of an entirely separate and distinct *genus* from the common Petit Gulf, others are of opinion that it is one and the same, but that it has been

brought to its present state of perfection by care and attention. They are led to this conclusion from the fact, that indications of its degenerating into the ordinary kind, have in some instances been discovered. That it is superior to any cotton heretofore known amongst us, cannot admit of a doubt. From actual experiment, we are inclined to the belief, that the poorest soil is best adapted to its successful production. Upon very rich lands the weed or stalk grows to an enormous height, is slender and weak; so soon then as the *bolls* appear and arrive at any size, the top *falls* to the ground, thereby injuring the further growth, and rendering the gathering of the cotton when matured exceedingly difficult. Your committee are of opinion that this might be partially, if not entirely remedied, by early *topping*. This would have the effect of strengthening the stalk and causing the whole to spread. A greater cluster of balls would be formed upon each stem, and the picking or gathering rendered comparatively easy. The Twin Cotton, from the manner in which it grows, produces but little shade, consequently it matures at a much earlier period than the ordinary kind. Samples have been presented to competent judges, and they have been unanimous in pronouncing the staple, of a much superior and finer quality than the ordinary Petit Gulf. That it produces at least one third more to the acre, we have been informed by persons testing it last year. The present crop not as yet having been ascertained, we are unable, from our own knowledge, to corroborate this; but we are strongly inclined to believe its truth, from the prospect and appearance of the crop of this present year. Your committee respectfully submit the following extracts from a letter received from Mr. Wm. K. Aldridge, the gentleman in whose possession the Twin Cotton was first discovered. His views are entitled to much weight, as he has had an opportunity of arriving at correct conclusions from the length of time he has been engaged in raising the new Cotton. He writes us as follows:

"In 1835, Mr. Todd Terry gave me three seeds, and informed me that he discovered, in walking through his father's farm, late in the season, a stalk of cotton entirely different from the common kind. The cotton had been picked out, but on examining the stalk he found three seeds. He informed me that his father bought the Petit Gulf seed that year—it was found near Vernon, Ala. I am under the impression that moderate soil is best to raise it on, but have no doubt of its doing well on the best lands. I sold a few seeds to a gentleman living in the Cane Brake, Perry county, Ala., who informed me that it yielded surprisingly. Another reason for thinking it would do finely on the richest lands, is, that it has but very little shade, and of course, opens earlier; also, there is no doubt it matures much sooner, which renders it less liable to rot, &c. Moderate seasons are best; however, I have no doubt it would stand a drought much better than the common cotton, owing to the shortness of the stem bearing the bolls. As I planted but one stock in 1836, I have no chance of knowing how much could be raised to the acre. Last year I had an acre planted, the 1st May, giving five feet distance, when three and a half would have been all sufficient. Every person looking at it, said there was not half a stand—I gathered 1200 lbs. from that acre. My present crop is planted at the distance of three and a half feet, and it is amply sufficient."

Your committee can add but little to the information contained in this letter of Mr. Aldridge. We are in possession of but few facts in rela-

tion to the subject, not alluded to by Mr. A. It may be superfluous for us to express further our approbation of the Twin Cotton. We shall, however, be pardoned for expressing the belief, that, in order to its success, the seed should be selected at the end of each season, retaining only such as are sound and in good order. By adopting and pursuing this course, we have no doubt a very material and important improvement would be manifested in the raising of cotton. We feel no hesitation in expressing it as our deliberate conviction, that the quality, quantity, and value of the article would be greatly enhanced. In conclusion, we can but express our regret that circumstances have prevented us from giving a more extended report upon the subject committed to our charge.

C. M. JACKSON, Chairman.

In addition to the report, we beg leave to submit the following letter from Dr. James H. Taylor, directed to the Chairman of the Committee. The letter will speak for itself, containing as it does, the result of the Doctor's observations upon the Twin Cotton, founded upon actual experiment.

C. M. J.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Nov. 4th, 1839.

Dear Sir,—As a member of the Committee on the Okra Cotton, of which you are Chairman, and in compliance with the desire of the Society, I beg leave to report to you the result of my experiment on the same.

I purchased last spring two bushels of the seed, with which I planted thirty acres on the 15th of April. The land on which I planted it, is thin post oak prairie, much worn by long continued cultivation. It was laid off by a deep furrow at five feet, into which the stubble was listed, and upon which a bed was thrown by the plough, then dressed up with the hoe, a single seed was dropped at every twelve inches into a trench drawn for that purpose and slightly covered. Not more than one-fourth of the seed came up; but that which did vegetate, came up vigorous plants and grew off finely.

About the first week in May, I shaved it down, and immediately after gave it a close and deep ploughing, following with the hoe, and dressing it up. Every three weeks, thereafter, I gave it a superficial ploughing with the sweep, each time following with the hoe and giving it more bed. About the middle of August, I laid it by, by giving it as superficial a ploughing as possible, then drawing up to it with the hoe as heavy a bed as the soil would admit of.

On the 10th of June it commenced blooming. It grew up generally in one tall stalk, from 8 to 10 feet high, with limbs about 8 or 10 inches long, and from three to four inches apart, leaving a cluster of bolls on each limb of five to eight in number, and sometimes three limbs put out from near the ground, growing upwards the full length of, and bearing fruit equal to the main stalk.

It is from ten days to a fortnight earlier in maturing than the Petit Gulf cotton, and it is a hardier plant, and tougher wood; it has also a longer tap root than other cotton, and thereby bears drought better. Its staple is much finer than the Petit Gulf, and I should say, at least 20 per cent. difference in value. I have already gathered 24,800 lbs. from my thirty acres, and have a heavy picking now in my field.

It must be observed, I had but ¾ of a stand, and that too, planted in five feet rows, whereas it would bear planting in three feet rows. I

confidently believe the same land capable of yielding 3000 lbs. per acre, if planted at three feet, or in double rows at five feet.

There can be but one objection to this cotton—it bends to the ground by the weight of its fruit; but this, I believe, can be obviated by planting in double rows, at five feet. It would form an arch from row to row, and thus support each other—the limbs being short and the foliage thin, it will bear crowding.

It yields from the Gin head as follows: 100 lbs. of cotton in the seed, when ginned, will net 36 lbs. of lint, or two bushels of seed weighing 64 lbs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. TAYLOR.

To Gen. C. M. JACKSON, Chairman of Committee
on Okra Cotton, Agricultural Society of South Alabama.

—

OKRA, OR ALVERADO COTTON.—We make the following extract from an advertisement in the Columbia papers, offering for sale the seed of this cotton.

"Dr. J. H. Taylor from little more than 1-4 of the stand he ought to have had, gathered upwards of 1,200 lbs. per acre. The following is an extract of a letter, from Dr. Taylor: "You must observe, I had not more than 1-4 of a stand, and planted, too, at 5 feet, instead of 3; and yet I will make about 1.200 lbs. per acre. I believe it capable, on the same land, of yielding 1500 lbs. planted at 5 feet in double rows. If I live another year I will try a hundred acres that way." Mr. F. M. Gilmer of Montgomery, Alabama, from as bad a stand, gathered 1,400 lbs. to the acre. Mr. C. T. Billingslae, of Bibb Co. Alabama, from 1-4 of an acre, gathered 1,060 lbs. and expected 200 lbs. more. Mr. Aldridge, who first cultivated this Cotton, it is said, raised 3,000 lbs. per acre, this year, and refused $30,000 for his crop of 30 acres. Dr. J. H. Taylor, from 22,000 lbs. of Seed Cotton, ginned 18 bales, of 600 lbs. average; or 35 lbs. of clean, to 100 of the Seed Cotton. Jesse P. Taylor, well known here, weighed 425 lbs. of Petit Gulf, and the same of Okra, in the Seed, and ginned each; the result was 124 lbs. of ginned Petit Gulf, or 29 lbs. to the 100, and of Okra 156 lbs., or 36 2-3 to each 100 lbs. of Seed Cotton. The staple is decidedly finer."

The price of the seed here offered for sale is $100 per bushel, $20 per gallon, and $5 per quart; which are stated to be the Alabama prices.

American Farmer.

GREATEST KNOWN YIELD OF CORN.

WE are informed that George C. Harness, Esq., of Hardy county, raised the past season, from one acre of ground, *one hundred and seventy-eight bushels of corn.* Mr. H. cultivated the same with a view of premium at the approaching agricultural exhibition of Hardy county, and the husking and measuring of the corn was attended to by a disinterested, intelligent, and highly respectable citizen of Moorefield. This is the most extraordinary yield, from one acre of ground, that we have ever heard of. Truly, may the South Branch Bottoms be termed the "garden spot" of the Union. *Romney Intelligencer.*

ACCOUNT OF AN AGRICULTURAL EXCURSION INTO ST. JOHN'S, BERKLEY.

BY THE EDITOR.

We do not believe that we shall be able to render a more acceptable service, to the Agricultural community, than by visiting the different sections of the Southern States, examining the soils and the improvements made, the modes of culture, economy and police, and reporting on them, as well as on such other matters as may fall under our observation. By pursuing this plan steadily for a few years, many districts will be examined, embracing every variety of soil and culture, in all the various ways now practised among us. The practices of some districts will, no doubt, be found to be superior to that of others, and some neighbourhoods, will surpass those adjoining in the culture of particular crops, or in their domestic arrangements. If these be carefully collected and reported, the planters of different sections will not only become better informed of the course of culture adopted elsewhere, but will also be able to compare it with their own, and make such alterations as their soil, locality and other circumstances may render desirable.

While editing the Southern Agriculturist, we gave an account of the Management of Pooshee, and of the Agriculture of Middle and Upper St. John's, Berkley. We now proposed re-visiting this section of country, to ascertain what improvements had taken place, and what alterations made. Accordingly we left Charleston on the 26th of December last, and, as we supposed, allotted ample time, and so planned our excursion as to attain our object. But unfortunately we were not able to accomplish all we desired and intended. Nearly the whole time we were in the country, it was so cold and rainy as to render it, if not impossible, yet highly unpleasant, to venture out even to ride from one plantation to another. We, therefore, visited but few, and our account both of the culture, product and economy of this section of country, is far less full and satisfactory than we hoped to have made it. We have had the pleasure, however, of seeing many of the planters, (some since our return to town) and from them have added to our stock of information. But there are many things connected with the police and economy of plantations which we wished to have noticed, and others would have suggested themselves to us more readily while rambling about, than while seated by the fire-side, or at the table of our friends. We wished also to have been more careful in our examination of the various soils cultivated, and more minute in our investigations. Causes, however, beyond our control, as we have just stated, prevented us from carrying into full effect our plans.

The parish of St. John's, Berkley, is long and narrow, extending from the Eastern branch of Cooper River to a short distance above the Eutaw Springs, a distance of near 50 miles Its Eastern boundary is the Santee, and its Western, the parish of St. James, Goosecreek, embracing the Western branch of Cooper River. The lower section of this parish includes some of the finest Rice plantations in the State. But of these it is not our intention, at present, to give any account, and we shall, therefore, confine our remarks to middle and upper St. John's. The soil of this parish embraces almost every variety, with perhaps the

exception of the stiff clay. In the lower section, the clay preponderates, so far as to form what may be termed a clayey loam. In the middle, much of the land cultivated is, a light sandy loam, while in the upper part, the sand predominates, forming a very light soil. In this classification, we of course confine ourselves to the high lands under cultivation. Throughout the whole parish, pine barrens abound, and along the Santee, and in other places, portions of the swamps are reclaimed.

The crops cultivated are cotton, corn, peas, potatoes, groundnuts, (in small quantities,) and rice in sufficient quantities to supply the demand for family use. Cotton, of course, is the principal crop intended for market, while the others are generally planted only to meet the demand of the plantation, though we were happy to find that on some plantations, corn was also one of the crops raised for sale, and that it was profitable.

We were sorry to find, that no rotation was adopted, but that usually, the fields supposed best adapted to the culture of particular crops, were selected for these crops, and under such were kept with little variation. Yet to such an extent do they now carry the manuring system, that these fields, with the exception of those cultivated in potatoes, have actually so improved as, in some instances, to yield from 50 to 100 per cent. more than formerly. This has been brought about, as we have already stated, by manuring, and in nothing were we more pleased than to find how universally this practice has been adopted, and how strenuously all are engaged in this laudable work. When we first visited St. John's, so little was the system of manuring appreciated, that the few who had commenced the practice systematically, were actually laughed at by their neighbors as visionaries—not that manuring was wholly unattended to, but because they thought it impossible to manure the whole of their crops. Little attention, therefore, was paid to the subject. What little manure was made, was placed in meagre quantities around the corn, or some crop near the homestead, and the clearing of new land was relied on to supply the places of those fields which were worn out by constant culture. In this respect, we were happy to find there had been a great change of opinion, and consequently of practice. On every plantation we visited, (and we have understood, on all or nearly all,) the collecting, preparing and applying of manures, is considered of primary importance, and is now conducted systematically. The manure most used, is what is here called "*compost.*" It consists of quantities of leaves, gathered in the woods and carted into the stables, cattle, sheep and hog pens, and from thence into the fields. A specific number of hands and carts are set apart for this work, and on no account (on most plantations) are they diverted to any other. Dr. Ravenel has one cart and mule, with the driver, and two young negroes, (a girl and boy, who could not be employed advantageously in the fields,) constantly engaged in hauling in "*trash,*" consisting principally of pine and oak leaves, raked up in the woods adjoining. The distance is not great, and with this one, thus employed throughout the whole year, and the use of two ox carts, for five or six weeks in summer, he manages to keep every thing well littered, and to make about 15,000 ox cart loads of manue, each load averaging about 50 bushel baskets. On this he pens about 60 head of cattle during the winter, (all of which he regularly feeds) and about 150 to 160 during summer, about a dozen or more horses, a tolerable large flock of sheep, and a number of hogs,

Major Porcher and Mr. Joseph Palmer, keep four carts constantly at work, but the distance they have to cart is greater. We did not ascertain the number of animals penned by either of these gentlemen. At Major Porcher's, we saw a quadrangular pile of manure, taken from the *stables* alone, the base of which would measure from 80 to 100 feet, and which was from 5 to 6 feet high. That from the cowpen we did not see. We regret we had it not in our power to visit the plantations of Messrs. Joseph Palmer, Jas. Gailleard and Thos. W. Porcher, all residing in the upper part of St. John's, and all actively engaged in manuring their lands and improving their crops. We had, however, the pleasure of meeting these gentlemen after out return, in this city, and from them we gathered a few particulars, relative to these.

From the vast amount of new vegetable matter (and that not of a kind easily decomposed,) carried into the pens, the relative quantity of animal manure cannot be large, as may easily be supposed. On some plantations, all of the cotton seed, which can be spared, is spread in one of the pens, and this manure is then used for the crop to which the cotton seed is usually applied. This plan, however, is very little adopted, the cotton seed being more generally applied alone. Others scatter over the pen, a short time before carting out, a quantity of salt; whilst others again, previous to hauling it away, throw their manure into heaps, scattering between each layer, a quantity of salt, sufficient to be diffused throughout the whole mass. This manure is highly prized, and its effects have been very gratifying. We shall have occasion to refer to this manure when we come to speak of the crops.

Lime, marl and ashes, are also getting into use, and some small experiments have been highly satisfactory. In some few instances, the leaves taken out of the woods have been at once carted into the fields, and used with benefit to the succeeding crop. These fields are of a clayey nature, and of course the best adapted for such crude manure. It was truly gratifying to us to find how much attention is paid now in this parish to manuring. Many things, which not a few years ago were permitted to lie neglected, and were rather considered nuisances, but not of such a character or in such quantities as to require abatement, by being carried off, are now sedulously sought after, collected, and carted off to the fields at the proper periods, where they fulfil their destiny, by adding materially to their fertily. In such just estimation is manuring now held, and so striking have been the effects, that planters are no longer anxious to clear new fields, unless forced to do so by the want of room. The attention of most of them is turned to the renovating of their old fields, and what a few years ago would have been deemed a hopeless task, is now actually in progress, and fields which were deemed at most unfit for culture of any kind, are now restored to their pristine fertility. In fact, experiments have been stated to us, going to show, that old fields constantly manured, (and in what would be considered but moderate quantities elsewhere) have become more productive, than fields recently cleared. We select an instance furnished us by Mr. Thomas W. Porcher, of Walworth. Among the fields cultivated by him the last year, were three. The first, which we shall designate as No. 1, was considered as nearly worn out when he first took possession of this plantation, ten years ago. Nos. 2 & 3 were newly cleared, and the last year, was the second and third of their culture. No. 1 had been regularly planted every year for the last ten, but

had also been constantly manured. Nos. 2 & 3 were not manured, for the second and third years, are deeemed the most productive. With the exception of one or two years, when potatoes were cultivated, cotton had been grown on No. 1 every year; Nos. 2 & 3 had also been cultivated in cotton, since they had been cleared. The product of the old field (No. 1) was an average of 170 lbs., that of the new fields (Nos. 3 & 2) 135 and 150 lbs. We find also from referring to our notes, that at Mexico, a field which had been cultivated without rest since 1801, and nearly the whole of that time in cotton, produced 176 lbs. per acre. while the new fields only two years under culture, yielded 77 and 109 lbs. per acre.

It may be said, that the season of 1839 was more favorable to the growth of cotton in old fields than in new. It may have been,—still, however, we do not think that such a difference could have been produced wholly by the season. Those who advocate the clearing of new fields for the culture of cotton, in preference to manuring the old, suggest that the experiments now trying ought not to be relied on, because the best lands were cleared long since, and those which are now being brought under culture for the first time, are what were considered inferior at the time that settlements were made, and fields located, while that which is now undergoing a renovation, as old and worn out fields, were originally the very choicest of the land, and therefore are easily restored, while the new fields, being of inferior quality, are soon exhausted,—consequently, that a true estimate of the advantages or disadvantages of clearing new lands, or manuring old, cannot be made, unless the new lands be also of the best quality. Allowing all that is asked, we cannot but think that if they will take a series of years, (say 10, 15 or 20, the longer the better) they will find that the balance will be greatly in favor of the old land manured; for while the new land is losing its fertility every year, and producing less, the old will be gradually improving until it surpasses even what it was originally. But again, if the choicest of the lands have been cleared already in this parish, is it not then far preferable to manure the old fields, rather than to clear new, which will last but for a few seasons, and then be worthless. We recollect making a few years ago, a calculation, in the company of a gentleman of this parish, (an excellent planter, and an advocate for clearing new fields) whether it was most advantageous, taking every thing into consideration, to clear new fields or manure the old. We took for data, the actual improvements made on fields with which he was well acquainted, by manuring, and on the other hand, the actual expenditure of time and labor bestowed on clearing and working new ground, as furnished by himself, and the products usually obtained from such fields, for a number of years. The precise period we do not recollect, nor did we note the calculation at the time. All that we recollect is, that the difference was in favor of the old fields, he being judge. We forget also what reason he assignned for not following out, or at least experimenting, with a view to ascertain how far what appeared so well on paper, was correct in fact. We had not the pleasure of seeing him when last in St. John's, but understood, that he was a most strenuous advocate for manuring, and carried it to great extent. We do not know what changes have taken place in his opinion, if any, for this calculation did not occur to us at the time, and consequently we made no inquiries on the subject.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THEORY OF EXCRETION.

It is certainly very desirable, that the causes which render a rotation of crops necessary to a successful course of agriculture, should be clearly and satisfactorily ascertained. That such a rotation in cropping is now necessary, none can doubt; and if the causes could be known, they might probably be counteracted, and this necessity made to cease. Practical and theoretical farmers, as well as scientific men, have been divided in sentiment on the usually assigned causes, one of which is, an exhaustion of the proper food of the plant from the soil, by a continued cultivation of the same plant; and the other of which is founded, on the doctrine that plants exude from their roots certain substances, poisonous to plants of the same variety, which in time renders the earth unfit for their cultivation. This, which was first brought to notice by Decandolle, and defended with great ability by Macaire, is called the theory of Excretion. With the general principles of the theory of exhaustion every farmer is fully acquainted; and it is on these principles the doctrine of manures is supposed to rest, and he is daily acquainted with their development in his practice: the principles involved in the theory of excretion are comparatively new; and in order to give the means of forming a comparative estimate of the value of the different systems, we condense from the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, a translation of the celebrated paper of M. Macaire, in which the theory and the reasons for its support are well set forth.

In order to determine whether there was any exudation or excretion from the roots of plants, M. Macaire carefully raised from the earth such as he deemed most suitable for his purpose, washed them minutely and perfectly in pure rain water, and then placed them in bottles or vials filled with water, the purity of which had been ascertained, and in which they vegetated and blossomed freely; being changed as fast as symptoms of decay appeared. The *chondrilla muralis*, was treated in this way, and after eight days, the water acquired a yellow tint, and a strong odor, similar to that of opium, and a bitter and rather pungent taste. The usual re-agents precipitated substances from the water in considerable quantities; and evaporation left a residuum of a brownish red color.

To determine whether the exudation was from the roots of the plants or from the stems, the roots of the *chondrilla* were placed in one vial, and the stems and leaves in another. These continued fresh and in flower, but the water was not charged with an remarkable color, had no taste or smell resembling opium, and showed no precipitules. From the roots, exudation took place as before, thus rendering it certain that the coloring, bitter substance was an excretion from the roots. Another series of experiments were made to determine whether the exudation from the roots took place at any particular time, or was most abundant at night or by day, and the result showed conclusively that the excretions from the roots principally took place during the night. This result was expected from the known fact, that by day the action of the light causes the roots of the plants to absorb the liquid that contains their nourishment; and it was therefore rational to suppose that excretion would take place during the time that absorption ceased.

A series of experiments were now instituted by M. Macaire to ascertain,

whether, when plants were placed in situations where substances not fit for nutritive purposes, or fatal to their existence, would be absorbed by the roots, would not be excreted, or rejected from circulation.

Some plants of annual mercury were carefully taken up and washed, and one part of the roots of each plant was placed in a solution of acetate of lead, and the other portion in pure water. They lived several days, after which an examination of the pure water, by the usual re-agents, showed a considerable quantity of lead, that had been evidently taken up by the roots from the solution of lead, and after being carried into the circulation, thrown out and rejected by the part placed in the pure water. This experiment repeated with other substances, seemed to show that plants had the power of separating, by circulation, articles taken up by their roots, but which were not required for nutriment, or were pernicious in effect. A plant was kept for some time in lime water, then taken out and washed until no trace of lime was visible, then transferred to pure water, into which it discharged from the roots a great quantity of lime, as was demonstrated by reactives.

Having settled these several points of the investigation, M. Macaire proceeded to the examination of the plants most commonly cultivated, in order to ascertain the nature and effect of the substances excreted from them. The first class of cultivated plants examined, were the *Leguminosæ*, of which the kidney bean, pea, and common bean, were submitted to the processes before described. These plants developed themselves well in rain water, and the excretion from all was abundant; resembling in its character, when obtained by slow evaporation, the same general appearances, and the tests used proved the qualities to be substantially the same.

It was in the course of his experiments on the leguminous plants, that Macaire found reasons for believing the correctness of M. Decandolle's intimation respecting the effect which a succession of plants of the same kind might have on the soil. In proceeding with these plants, M. M. found that when the water in which they had been kept was highly charged with this excrementitious matter, that fresh flowers of the same species that were put into it, quickly faded, and did not live well in it. In order to determine whether the death or fading of the plants was occasioned by the want of carbonic acid, or some similar cause, or by the excreted matter, M. Macaire replaced the leguminous plants by those of another family, especially that of corn. The latter lived and flourished, and the yellow coloring matter of the water diminished in intensity, the residuum became less, and it was thus evident that the new plant absorbed and fed on part of the substances excreted or rejected by the former. This, it is true, was a rotation of crops in a bottle, but it served to give more confidence in the theory of M. Decandolle, as to the causes that render rotation necessary. According to the quantity of matter excreted by the several plants named above, beans would give the best wheat, peas next, and then the kidney bean.

From the leguminous plants, M. Macaire next proceeded to the *Graminæ*, of which he examined wheat, rye and barley. These plants did not thrive well in rain water, a fact attributed by him to the great quantity of mineral substances, especially silex, which these plants contain, and which they cannot imbibe from pure water. The water in which they vegetated was clear, transparent, without taste or smell. The reactives, proved, however, the presence of salts, muriates and carbonates,

—alkaline and earthy; with but a small proportion of gummy matter, no oily matter, and the aforesaid salts. M. M. adds—

"I should be led to believe that the exudation from the roots of these plants, scarcely tends farther than to reject the saline matter which is foreign to vegetation."

M. M. says—"The only plant of the *Solaneæ* family, that I experimented upon was the potato. It lived well in rain water, and developed its leaves. The water not colored, leaves very little residuum, and the taste is very slight, which makes me think that the plant is one of those of which the excretions are very trifling, and scarcely perceptible."

The conclusion of the memoir is as follows:

"In concluding this paper, which should have contained the examination of more families, had time permitted, I shall recount that the results are,—1st. That most vegetables exude by their roots substances useless to vegetation; 2d. That the nature of these substances vary according to the families of the vegetables that produce them; 3d. That some being pungent and resinous may hurt, and others being sweet and gummy, may contribute to the nourishment of other individuals; 4th. That these facts tend to confirm the theory of the rotation of crops suggested by M. Decandolle." *Genesee Farmer.*

ROHAN POTATOES.

These extraordinary Potatoes have become almost as fashionable at the North, as the Morus Multicaulis, and from all accounts, certainly bid fair to prove a valuable acquisition. We have but little experience with them, having cultivated them but one season, and under very unfavorable circumstances. For the information of our readers, we subjoin a few extracts from our exchange papers.

"The Rohan potato, latterly introduced into this country, is remarkable for its large size, extraordinary productiveness, fine flavor, and farinaceous qualities as a late or winter table potato, or for stock. For experiment, I planted separately two potatoes, weighing each a pound, (being about half the size of the accompanying) and I raised from them 143 lbs. which is rather more than 2½ bushels; and I have reason to believe my whole crop (about 3000 bushels) will fully equal this increase. They are certainly a most valuable introduction, and I doubt not will be universally cultivated—giving an increase of more than seventy fold."

"In the early part of May last, I planted 100 lbs. of Rohan potatoes on old ground, that had been cropped for many years, which is unfavorable to the growth of potatoes. I harvested them in October, and had 173 bushels, liberal measure. I planted one potatoe, weighing 17 ounces, and obtained from it 202 lbs., filling a flour barrel rounding full and 52 lbs. over. They grew very large, 65 of the largest tubers completely filling a flour barrel."

"Last spring, I bought of G. C. Thorburn, *half a peck* of Rohan potatoes, cut them into single eyes, made holes in my garden about four feet apart each way, put in manure, planted two eyes in each hill, which were but a little raised. The whole number of hills, 348. These I kept clean by hand hoeing, and hilled them up once. Last week I had them dug; my son measured them; the product was *forty-nine bushels and three pecks*, exclusive of some large ones

that had been picked out while digging. Giving a yield of full fifty bushels from one half peck of seed, on a plat of ground 230 feet by 27."

"We learn from the Somerset Herald, that Mr. W. W. Johnson, from 9 lbs. of tubers planted, obtained 846 lbs. or 15 bushels and 6 lbs. allowing 56 lbs. to the bushel."

"A writer in an English agricultural paper states, that in 1837, he raised from sixty moderate sized Rohans, planted under trees, and injured to a considerable extent by drought, *twenty-four bushels* full measure. In France, these potatoes frequently attain the weight of ten pounds,"

"From a single Rohan potato, sent to the editor of the Farmer's Monthly Visitor, from Boston, having eighteen eyelets, were raised full three pecks in measure, weighing thirty-four and a half pounds, and one hundred and eighty-four in number. One hill was entirely eaten by mice, and serious depredations were made in some others. The weight of the seed potato did not exceed four ounces. The largest potato weighed two pounds."

"I procured one-sixth of a bushel of the celebrated Roban Potatoes in May last. I raised from the above seed, 13½ bushels, full measure, of the finest potatoes—indeed, taking them altogether, they are the largest sized potatoes I ever saw, being a production of 81 bushels to the single bushel of seed, and at the rate of 600 bushels per acre."

"On the 23d of 4th month (April) last, I received a single Rohan potatoe, of a medium size, of which I made eighteen cuttings, and planted them eighteen inches asunder, in good ground well manured. This week the produce was taken up in the presence of two of my neighbors, who felt some curiosity respecting the result. The potatoes measured one bushel and a half, and weighed eighty pounds. One of them weighed two pounds."

"Doctor Fuller, of Connecticut Retreat, has gathered from one "true Rohan," presented him last spring, and which weighed only four ounces, *ninety-six pounds five ounces*. One of the potatoes weighed 2 lbs. 10 oz., and the yield being 400 to one."

We might extend these extracts, were it desirable, but enough has been given to enable our readers to form an opinion relative to them. We have seen an account of but one failure, and that is in Kentucky, where, it is said, they did not succeed the last season, although the common varieties produced abundantly. We hope some of our friends will give them a trial, and report the results of their experiments. We have distributed the few we had among our friends, and hope to hear from them at least. They were sold last year, in Philadelphia, readily at $1 each, and Messrs. Hirst & Dreer, sold a bushel, which they had reserved for themselves, at $50. We are not informed of the price of the present season, but presume they will be much lower. No doubt *spurious* Rohans will be palmed off in abundance on the unwary.

Ed. So. Cab.

EGG-HATCHING EXHIBITION.

A short time ago, while in London, I went to see, among other "sights," the much talked-of-egg-hatching-apparatus, or, as it is called by its proprietor, the ECCALEOBION—a word from the Greek, signifying to bring to life. The establishment is situated in Pall-Mall, opposite the Italian Opera-House, and consists of a large handsome back apartment, entered by a passage from the street. The first feeling on entering the room is that of rather a warm atmos-

phere, along with the slight smell of a poultry-yard, which the place literally is. On one side, on your left, is a huge oblong case against the wall, elevated three or four feet from the floor, and used as a hatching oven; on the opposite side, running nearly the length of the room, is an enclosure formed of paling, separated in distinct divisions for different sizes of birds, and containing, close to the wall, a row of croops or houses for the little creatures to run into. At the father end of the room is a glass-case on a table, in which the birds of one day old are kept and nursed; and in the centre of the room is a table with a number of saucers, in which lie the yolks of eggs at different stages of advancements toward maturity, but which being broken are of course useless for hatching; they only exhibit the progress of the chick. Such is the general outline of the establishment, which is fitted up with iron steam pipes running round the room to preserve a certain temperature; and with a man who attends the oven, and a woman to look after the poultry-yard or enclosure, the whole is before the eye of the visitor.

The first thing we do is to take a peep into the oven, where the process of incubation is performed. This oven executes the office of the parent hen, and in a remarkable perfect manner, in fact, much better than most hens could perform the operation. Every body, who has any thing to do with hatching poultry, knows that the great difficulty consists in keeping the hen upon her eggs. Some hens are better hatchers than others, but, generally speaking, they are too apt to leave their eggs to get cool; and this, by checking the incubation, at once destroys the unborn chick. By the Eccaleobion process, this chance of loss is entirely avoided. If the egg be a fresh good egg, it must give up its chick; nothing can keep it from being hatched. The oven or case, as we have said, is a large oblong box projecting from the wall. It is to be divided into eight compartments, like the floors of a house, and each exposed to view by means of a glass door. To satisfy our curiosity, the door of one of the compartments was thrown open, and on looking in we perceiveed that the interior is a sort of shallow box lined with cloth, heated with steam-pipes, and the bottom covered with eggs lying at an easy distance from each other. A jug of water is placed among the eggs, for the purpose of supplying the air of the box with a necessary degree of moisture. Thus, each compartment or box is a distinct oven with its own eggs, and in each the eggs are at a particular stage of advancement. In one box they may be but newly put in, and in another they may be in the act of being hatched. The meaning of having eight boxes is to insure a batch of chicks every two or three days. Each box holds from two to three hundred eggs, or the whole upwards of two thousand.

An egg requires from twenty to twenty-three days to hatch, according to its quality and other circumstances; the exact time is allowed to be twenty-one days; but such is the variety of eggs, that a batch will require three days in entirely chipping. The progressive series of phenomena during incubation, as exhibited in the broken eggs on the table of the room, are exceedingly interesting, particularly that in which the heart is seen beginning to beat on the surface of the yolk, and are as follows: I quote from a pamphlet handed to visitors:—

"1st. day. In a few hours after exposure to the proper temperature the microscope dicovers that a humid matter has formed within the lineaments of the embryo: and at the expiration of twelve or fourteen hours, this matter bears some resemblance to the shape of a little head; a number of new vesicles also suddenly appear, rudimentary of different parts of the future body of the chick; those first formed, and most easily distinguishable, may afterwards be recognized as assuming the shape of the vertebral bones of the back.—2d day. The eyes begin to make their appearance about the thirtieth hour, and additional vessels, closely joined together, indicate the situation of the naval. The brain and spinal marrow, some rudiments of the wings and principal muscles, become observable. The formation of the heart is also evidently proceeding.—3d day. At the commencement of the third day, the beating of the heart is perceptible, although no blood is visible; a few hours, however, elapse, and two vesicles, containing blood, make their appearance; one forming the left ventricle, the other the great artery. The auricle of the heart is next seen, and in the whole

of these, pulsation is evident.—4th day. The wings now assume a more defined shape, and the increased size of the head renders the globules, containing the brain, the beak and the front and hind part of the head distinctly visible.—5th day. On the fifth day the liver makes its appearance, and both auricles, now plainly seen, approach nearer the heart than they were before. The beautiful phenomena, the circulation of the blood, is evident.—6th day. The lungs and stomach are distinguishable, and the full gush of blood from the heart distinctly apparent.—7th day. During this day, the intestines, veins, and upper mandible, become visible, and the brain begins to assume a constituent form.—8th day. The beak, for the first time, opens, and the formation of flesh commences upon the breast.—9th day. The deposition of matter, forming the ribs, takes place, and the gall-bladder is perceptible.—10th day. The matter forming the skull now becomes cartilaginous, and the protrusion of feathers evident.—12th day. The orbits of sight are now apparent, and the ribs are perfected.—13th day. The spleen gradually approaches to its proper position in the abdomen.—14th day. The lungs become inclosed within the breast.—15th, 16th and 17th days. During these days the infinity of phenomena in this wonderful piece of vital mechanism, elaborate it into a more perfect form, and it presents an appearance closely approaching a mature state. The yolk of the egg, however, from which it derives its nourishment, is still outside the body.—18th. On the 18th day, the outward and audible sign of developed life is apparent, by the faint piping of the chick being, for the first time, heard.—19th, 20th, and 21st days. Continually inceasing in size and strength, the remainder of the yolk gradually becomes inclosed within its body; then, with uncommon power for so small and frail a being, it liberates itself from its prison in a peculiar and curious manner, by repeated efforts made with its bill, seconded by muscular exertion with its limbs, and emerges into a new existence.

TO BE CONTINUED.

For the Southern Cabinet.

NOTICE, BY PROF. SHEPARD, OF CERTAIN MINERAL SUBSTANCES SUBMITTED TO EXAMINATION AT THE LABORATORY OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

THE minerals to be described, were presented by Dr. HARDY, of Ashville, Buncombe county, North-Carolina.

1. *Epsom Salt*, from Cherokee county, North-Carolina. The specimen is a good-sized mass of transparent columnar crystals, or coarse fibres, and strikingly resembles the same substance as it occurs in the limestone caverns of Kentucky and Indiana, in which States it is understood to exist in quantity sufficient to justify its exploration for the purposes of medicine.

As other sulphates are liable to be present in native epsom salt, the specimen was submitted to examination with a view to their detection; but the result of the inquiry was, that no foreign salts were present. A few scales of black shaly matter, however, were observed to be mechanically blended up with the fibres, which would appear to indicate that the source of the specimen is a slate-formation, rather than one of limestone. It is to be hoped that it will be found to exist at the locality so abundantly, as to answer a valuable purpose to the neighborhood.

It may not be uninteresting to add a few remarks respecting the sources of this important purgative salt. It has hitherto but rarely been noticed in the solid state in the mineral kingdom, and no where to any

extent, save in our own country. The ordinary condition of its occurrence is that of solution in the waters, either of certain mineral springs, or of the ocean. The springs of Saidschutz, Sedlitz, Pullna and Epsom, (from the last of which the name epsom salt is derived,) are the most famous for their impregnation with this sulphate. It was formerly extracted from some of these springs; but this source afterwards gave place to the *bittern*, or residuary liquor of sea salt-works, while this again has been re-placed in the progress of chemistry, by the magnesian limestone rocks, when treated according to one or the other of the two following processes. By the first, hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid) is added to the rock in quantity sufficient to remove the lime it contains, the carbonate of magnesia (often associated with silica) remaining undissolved. This is washed with water, and treated with the equivalent portion of sulphuric acid. By the second method, dilute sulphuric acid is added directly to the rock; the acid unites with both bases, with one of which (the lime) it forms gypsum, or sulphate of lime, while with the other (the magnesia) it yields epsom salt, or sulphate of magnesia. The gypsum being insoluble is easily separated from the epsom salt. In the fabrication of the salt by either method, it is requisite to purify it by a careful crystallization.

2. *Sulphate of Alumina, (Solfatarite,)* from Cherokee county, North-Carolina. Two specimens of this rather uncommon salt were presented. Its color is white, with a slight tinge of yellow. The structure is delicately fibrous, from whence it exhibits a silky lustre. It is wholly soluble in water; its taste is sweet and alum-like. It was found to be free from soda, potassa, and iron, and to consist of one proportional of sulphate of alumina combined with six of water. On being treated in solution, with the equivalent of sulphate of potassa and evaporated, it shot into perfectly colorless crystals of alum.

It may be added, that the sulphate of alumina is the parent substance of alum, and wherever it exists in sufficient abundance only needs for the profitable manufacture of alum, to be lixiviated, and treated with sulphate of potassa or chloride of potassium (muriate of potassa,) or with impure sulphate or carbonate of ammonia. The sulphate of potassa is the best precipitant, and since it forms 18.34 parts of 100 of crystallized alum, this quantity, or its equivalent of chloride of potassium must be afforded to the aluminous liquor.

If no considerable supply of the solfatarite exists at the spot whence these specimens were taken, it is still possible that the rock from which they were detached may be the true alum-slate, in which case there is nothing to hinder the successful manufacture of alum there on a large scale: for it is from such a rock that the greater part of the alum found in British commerce is derived.

The alum-slate is a thin stratum which overlies bituminous coal and wood, and consists of carbonaceous matters, blended up with clay and iron-pyrites. The coaly ingredient is so abundant as to render the rock to a degree combustible. When the slate is heated in contact with the air, the pyrites loses one half of its sulphur, in the form of sublimed sulphur or sulphurous acid, and becomes a black sulphuret of iron, which speedily attracts oxygen, and changes to sulphate of iron, and this transfers its acid to the alumina of the clay, progressively, as the iron by the action of the air, with a little elevation of temperature becomes peroxidized, whereby sulphate of alumina is formed. This is converted into alum in the way above described.

3. *Statuary Marble*, from Cherokee county, North-Carolina. Two samples of this remarkable marble were submitted for examination. In point of texture, color and transparency, they rival the choicest specimens of Carrara marble. One of them is a pure white, while the other is a pale, delicate flesh color. The grain is fine, not exceeding that of coarse loaf sugar—while it is perfectly uniform. The particles are closely bound together by a firm transparent cement of pure limestone, while they themselves consist of the double salt, carbonate of lime and magnesia (dolomite): and hence, when a fragment of the marble is thrown into dilute hydro-chloricacid, a tolerably brisk effervesence ensues, and the crystalline grains of dolomite separate and fall to the bottom of the sevsel where they remain undissolved. The ratio of pure limestone to the. dolomite was not made the subject of exact inquiry; but it appears to be less than one-fifth of the latter.

Inasmuch as dolomite surpasses pure limestone in hardness, in the ratio of 3.5 to 3. (estimated by the mineralogical scale,) it is plain that the lustre of the marble under consideration, will be superior to that of most marbles, while the uniform diffusion of a pure calcareous cement throughout its substance will much enhance its toughness in working, and its inalterability when exposed to the air,—a pure dolomite being both brittle and liable to rapid disintegration from the weather.

Whether the present marble is abundant, or so situated as to be accessible, was not mentioned upon the label accompanying the specimens. So extraordinary, however, are its qualities, and so great a desideratum is a fine statuary marble in the country, that it is to be hoped a full and satisfactory account of the locality will soon be communicated to the public. Sculptors, at present, depend almost exclusively upon the quarries of Pianello and Polvazzo, in the valley of Carrara; but even there, blocks of good quality are exceedingly scarce, the finest of them commanding about fifteen dollars the cubic foot.

4. *Spathic Iron (carbonate of iron,)* from Davis' county, North-Carolina. This is an extremely important mineral substance, inasmuch as it affords that well known metallic product, denominated in the arts, *German steel.* The mineral is hence called the steel-ore. The present specimen plainly denotes that it belongs to an important deposit. It is a pure mass of good size, presenting the broad foliated texture and brown color of the species, attended by the requisite specific gravity. Faint traces of yellow copper pyrites, are also discernible in the specimen, an ore that very frequently attends it in its European localities, and sometimes in such quantity as to lead to a separate exploration.

Mr. W. L. McREE, a member of the medical class, informs me that the locality whence the specimen was obtained, is situated about ten miles east of Ashville, on the banks of the Swannanoa river, where it exists in considerable abundance. He has also heard that the same substance is found in Hayward county, two or three miles from the Buncombe line, and 18 west from Ashville.

The discovery of the steel-ore is the more important, from the circumstance of its being very uncommon in the United States. But one other deposit of consequence is known in the country, which is situated at Roxbury, in the State of Connecticut, for a full account of which, as well as for the history of the production of steel from the ore, as practised in Germany, a reference may be had to my Report on the Geology of the State of Connecticut, page 30, *et. seq.*

Charleston, Jan 11, 1840.

ON THE CULTURE OF THE DAHLIA.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Dahlia, at present, is the most fashionable flower grown, either in Europe or America, and is more extensively cultivated than any other. In England, it is quite the rage, and new seedlings of merit sell as high as £10, equal to about $45. But so easily and rapidly are they propagated, that the prices after the first season fall rapidly, and in the course of a year or two, they may be purchased even in the United States at from 50 cts. to $3, which is the highest price we notice on the last catalogues, even for the newest varieties. In the Northern and Eastern States, a taste for them has sprung up, especially in the neighbourhoods of the large cities, and the choisest plants of Europe are introduced as soon as known, and can usually be obtained at moderate prices in one or two seasons after their being brought forward in Europe. Not many seedlings of merit have been raised in the United States, principally owing to the low prices given for them in this country, and to the very few obtained, possessing superior properties, from a large number of plants. It is therefore more easy and profitable to import those of ascertained merit than to raise them from seed. The Dahlia has long been cultivated at the South, but as yet has not grown into as great favor here as it has elsewhere, and although we now and then meet with a few superior varieties, yet generally those most in cultivation are very common and inferior. We cannot but think this owing in a great measure to want of information relative to their culture, and what has been done in the way of producing new and splendid varieties. We have therefore collected and condensed from several sources the latest information relative to them, which as far as applicable to our climate, we will give in this and the succeeding numbers, accompanied with such remarks as our experience warrants.

In order that our readers may judge of what properties are deemed requisite to constitute a fine Dahlia, we extract the following from "*Mantel's*" work, entitled "*Floriculture*," as published in the American Magazine of Horticulture.

"*Criterion of a fine double Dahlia.*—The flower should be erect, and stand completely above the foliage; for if the peduncle be short, so that the flower be hid among the leaves, it will not be displayed to advantage.

"Form, color, and size, are considered the essential properties of a fine dahlia.

"1. *Form.*—All good judges allow that perfection in form consists in the near approach to a hemisphere. The Springfield Rival may be given as an instance of the nearest approximation to a perfect flower: it is, however, too flat in the centre, and the outer petals are reflected. It is essential that the outline should form a true circle, and, consequently, the petals should be regularly disposed, rounded, smooth at the edges, or rose-leaved, and slightly concave, but not so much so as that the back of the petals should be seen in front. Those flowers whose petals are narrow-pointed, notched, or fringed, as well as those that are flat, or convex—however desirable for the flower-border—are objectionable as show-flowers; as are also those which, when fully blown, exhibit the eye or disk. In some dahlias the petals, near the centre, converge and conceal the disk, which, when the flowers are fully expanded, becomes exposed: these are, therefore, pronounced by florists imperfect flowers.

'"2. *Color.*—As regards color, much depends upon taste; but *selfs*, (i. e. flowers of one color,) of whatever color they may be, should be bright and distinct. In striped, spotted, tipped, or variegated varieties, the colors should be well defined, and every petal uniformly and distinctly marked. Those that are pounced, blotched, variously or irregularly marked, are inadmissible as show-flowers.

'"3. *Size.*—When other properties are equal, size will determine the preference; but in judging of a good dahlia, form must have the pre-eminence, then color, and lastly, size; but in no instance should either form or color be sacrificed to size. The relative proportions of excellence in these criteria have thus been estimated: form three, color two, size one."'

The Springfield Rival is still considered a criterion by which to judge of the perfection of the Dahlia, but even this variety is considered as imperfect:—

'"The only flower which is perfect on the outer edge, and thus forms a perfect circle, without notch, is the Springfield Rival; this fails on the side of the view, because the eye does not rise to the top, and the back petals reflect; the most beautiful bloom we have seen of it out of some hundreds being somewhat sunk in the centre.

"It is, however, a question if we ever get a flower perfect in all respects, for almost every grower says the Springfield Rival is the *best*. Our notions, then, of perfection, may be estimated thus: Would the Springfield Rival be handsomer, if the eye or crown rose up to a complete half circle, with all its present beauties? Secondly, Would it be better if, instead of the present reflection of petals on the under side, they were perfectly square and flat? If these points be conceded, our notions of perfection are established; for certainly, in the beauty and accuracy of these petals, no art could effect an improvement, nor could the compass of a mathematician improve the circular outline of the Springfield Rival, as you view it in front."'

The following remarks on the above, are by the Editor of the Magazine of Horticulture:—

"Perfection, therefore, in form, should be *half a globe*. But blooms, perfect in other respects, may be either more or less so, and still not be objectionable. Those, however, which are more than half a ball, would be the most perfect: for if they fall much short, they have altogether too flat an appearance. Criterion is an instance of a form less than half a globe, and Juliet, (Widnall's,) one in which it is more; both flowers are well known, and will convey our ideas in judging upon this point.

"In connection with form may be noticed the shape of the petal. To be perfect, they should be quite round, free from all notches, broad in proportion to their length, and not quilled or cupped so much as to show the back of the petals. A flower may be beautiful though the petals may be flat, cupped or reflexed; but those which are slightly cupped must be those which approach nearest to perfection. Those flowers with petals so concave as to appear quilled, though sometimes admitted, are highly objectionable, and in our opinion should be disqualified as *show* flowers, however beautiful they may be as garden varieties. One of this class, (and by which we shall be better understood,) is Mackenzie's Contender, in other properties a pretty kind. Conqueror of Europe, Dodds's Mary, &c., are specimens of new varieties with good shaped petals.

"We have, then, what we shall consider as perfection in form. Next comes *color*. Whatever the color of a bloom may be, if a self, (so called,) it should be clear, bright and fresh, without any spots or blemishes, or dusty appearance. If the colors are striped, edged or mottled, they should be bold, striking and distinct. Two thirds of the dahlias described as edged are nothing but dingy white flowers, with irregular blotches of color, extending, in some kinds, from the edge of the petals nearly to the centre; in others, stripes and tints of color are disposed

over the surface of the petals, without any distinctness. Such should not be esteemed of any value. As specimens of the different classes of bicolored, we may note, of the kinds we have yet seen, the Picta formosissima as the best stripe—Widnall's Rainbow, (when good,) the best shaded—Levick's Incomparable, the best tipped—Mary Queen of Scots, (Dodds's,) the best tinted—and the King of dahlias the best edged, (though a poor flower in other respects.) It is difficult to say what is the best white; but of the kinds well known, Exemplar appears to combine the most good properties, though the white is not as pure as the old King of the whites.

"Lastly comes size—a property which some individuals seem to look upon as more important than form or color—or both together. Large and small flowers are both objectionable. The former are generally flat and ill formed—the latter have a tameness which detracts altogether from their magnificence. A medium size is that which approaches the nearest to perfection. Size is, however, of little importance—but a flower, under, rather than above the medium, if good in other properties, is in our opinion preferable. Large flowers appear beautiful to those who only appreciate a dahlia from its quantity and not quality: there is a coarseness about the very best that we have ever seen, which would disqualify them as show flowers. Negro Boy and Wilmot's superb are two specimens, the latter of which is occasionally very handsome. King Otho is also a large flower, inferior in the early part of the season, but beautiful late in the autumn, when the blooms are slightly above the medium size."

Having afforded our readers information as to the properties which constitute a fine Dahlia, we now proceed to give directions as to their culture, and the first thing to be considered is

Soil and Situation.—The Dahlia will grow in almost every variety of soil, but a light sandy loam, as far as our experience goes, is decidedly preferable. We have seen them flower tolerably well in other and opposite qualities of soil, but in that made rich by the addition of stable manure, the plant will grow most luxuriantly, the flowers will however be comparatively few in proportion to the foliage, and often hid by it. The best compost we have used, is a mixture of about two-thirds of leaf mould, (or the surface of the soil, taken from our woods,) and one-third of well rotted manure, with a small addition of lime.

Another thing to be attended to is, the preparation of the ground. In order to have fine plants and flowers, it is not sufficient to dig a hole merely large enough to hold the tubers, with a small quantity of manure. The ground should be spaded up fully from 18 to 24 inches deep. In a shallow soil they do not flower well, and the ill success which has attended the efforts to grow them by many amateurs, has no doubt been owing more to a neglect of this requisite than any other. If planted out singly, and where the ground cannot be spaded, the holes should be, not less than 3 feet diameter, 2 feet deep, and filled with a compost, similar to that recommended above. As to situation, the only caution we would give is not to plant under or near trees or high close fences, nor where the winds can have much effect on them. In the first, they will be drawn up, consequently weak, the branches will be easily broken, and the flowers not of good color or form. In the latter, they will be liable to be blown down and have their branches frequently broken by the high winds, in despite of all precautions. They should, however, be in an airy open situation.

Propagation.—To produce new varieties, seeds are resorted to, but as we have already stated, but very few seedlings produce flowers of such merit as to render them worthy of being noticed. Before the Dahlia was brought to the perfection it has now attained, any plant

producing full double flowers of good color, was highly prized. Now something more is required, and it is no easy matter to produce flowers equalling those now grown, much less surpassing them.

The usual mode of propagating those of known merit, is by dividing the roots, but where many plants are offered for sale, cuttings are resorted to. In propagating by the first mode, the old roots are so divivided as to leave a part of the old stock or stem to each division, with one or more tubers attached. The *tyro* must recollect that the tubers areentirely destituteofeyes, and that the shoots proceed from those portions of the stemwhich may have been preserved alive. If it is desirable to get as many plants as possible from a root without resorting to *cuttings*, a slight hot bed may be made use of; to force them to throw out shoots, or the plant (which is, we think, preferable) need not be divided until these appear, which will be sometime before the roots show themselves. They may thereforc be placed in the ground, and afterwards taken up and divided, when the shoots appear. The proper time for planting them out, is that in which it is found best to plant the Irish potatoe, and when there will be but little risk of severe weather,—in the neighborhood of Charleston, from the middle of February to 1st April. The ground having been prepared as already directed, holes for the reception of the plants should be made not more than 4 or 5 feet apart, into which place the roots from 2 to 3 inches below the surface of the earth. Where, however, it is desirable to propagate them in greater numbers than can be obtained from a division of the roots, cuttings must be resorted to The directions given by Mr. McKenzie, in the American Gardener's Magazine, are so full, that we quote them here entire:

"About the middle of January I pot my roots, according to their respective sizes, placing them in the hot-house, as near to the light as possible; giving gentle waterings until the eyes make their appearance; when they require a more copious supply. About the same time I procure from the stable-yard a quantity of fresh hot manure, making it up in a hot-bed for a one, two, or three light frame, according to the number required, making the bed upon level ground, and about two feet in height. After the bed is made, the frame should be placed immediately upon it, and about three or four inches of sand or ashes on the surface of the manure; sand, or ashes, being warmer than common soil—and also preventing slugs or worms from committing any destruction. The sashes should be put on, and kept close, until the heat rises, which will be in the course of two or three days. By this time the Dahlias in the hot-house will have made shoots three or four inches in length, with the foliage a little expanded; I cut them off as close to the crown of the root as possible. They will be found to strike more freely when cut close, and just below a joint, then when cut in the pithy part of the stem, being careful to leave an eye below your cut, as from this you may have two more shoots in the course of a few days In this manner you may go on increasing the number of plants, looking over them every evening, and taking off such as are expanded in the foliage. Having, previous to this, mixed a compost of two parts leaf mould and one of sand, I fill as many of No. 60, or three inch pots, [No. 2] as may be wanted for the first evening, (preferring the evening for this operation) and with my finger, I go over the whole, and make a hole in the centre of each pot; this hole I fill up with pure sand, placing my cuttings one in each pot, and with both thumbs pressing them as tight as possible, writing the name of each correctly on a label, and placing the same in the pot to which it belongs. When done, I sprinkle hem all over with a fine rose, and carry them immediately to the hot-bed, keeping the frame shut close, day and night, and sprinkling them every morning and evening, and shading with mats from the hot sun.

"Dahlias, treated in this manner, will be found to make finer plants, not growing so much to wood, flowering much earlier, having larger flowers and a greater abundance; and making finer roots for keeping over another winter. As the heat declines in the propagating bed, it must be kept up with linings."

* * * "When the Dahlias that were first put in from cuttings appear to be growing in the hot-bed, by turning them out of the pots, they will be found to have filled them with roots; they should then be carried to the green-house or a cold frame, till such time as the frost is over, and the weather favorable for planting out in the garden. As an instance of this method, I propagated, in the spring of 1834, from a collection of one hundred roots, with the same number of varieties, upwards of two thousand flowering plants, with scarcely a failure."

We append also the directions given in the *Floricultural Cabinet:*

"The soil intended for the reception of the plants should have been laid up in ridges during the preceding winter and spring, and should consist of a good sandy loam, well manured with old frame dung, also well exposed to the previous winter. If the loam partakes of a heavy or saponaceous quality, a tolerable portion of river sand should be united with it. Or well decomposed road stuff will be found of advantage to intermix with the whole; but I most distinctly wish to be understood, that although so great an advocate for the use of well-neutralized manure, I at the same time strongly advise that that use should not be indiscriminate or disproportionate to the quantity or nature of the soils with which it is united, or it will be found to produce a repletion of growth, by no means desirable to attain.

"The variegated varieties should be grown in a fine sandy loam or peat, nearly or wholly destitute of manure, according to their specific natures, or they will be liable to run too much, and exhibit self-colored flowers, and in the event of any such appearing, they should be taken off the plant as soon as ascertained.

"Wherever the size of the garden will admit of it, four or five feet space each way should be allowed between the plants, by which their health and strength will be much improved, and will show to far greater advantage than if planted close.

"I much advise that the plants, on being turned out of the pots, should not be planted too near the surface. No apprehension need be entertained that the lower portion of the stem of the plant then surrounded by the soil will rot, for vegetation advances rapidly with the Dahlia, and the lower part of the stem gradually attains a strong woody substance.

"It is most important to keep the plants regularly supplied with moisture, using rain or river water, and applying it gradually by means of the water-pot, always after sunset; and the ground being covered around the plants with two inches deep of old dung, will much increase the brilliancy of the self-colored blossoms. Be most careful to secure the plants by means of proper stakes, one near the centre stem, and several round the outsides of the lateral arms, tied with bass strings, to guard against the powerful effects of strong winds.

"Avoid as much as possible planting Dahlias near trees, walls or close fences, or they will be drawn up weakly; the more airy and open the situation, the better, and if any exhibit symptoms of running up disproportionately, or exuberant, it may be somewhat retarded by firmly treading the earth round the root.

"If planted in pots, it should be in twelves or eights, and may be trained to frames, Geranium fashion, having one strong support to the main stem of the plant: and the surface of the soil should be covered with moss, or fine old dung, and the pots not exposed to the full glare of the mid-day sun, or no moisture can be preserved."

Another mode of propagating the Dahlia, is by buds or joints, in the following manner:

"After a stem has attained the length of from one foot to three feet, according to the variety, it is cut into as many pieces as there are joints. Each piece is then reduced so as to leave a very small space above and below the joint; one of the leaves is cut off, and the cutting so formed is planted, leaving one of the leaves above the ground, the greater part of the petiole being buried. Shading and the usual routine being attended to, the plants root immediately, and flower the same year."

In our next, we will proceed with directions for their culture, &c., and conclude our article by giving the names and descriptions of some of the best now grown.

REMARKS ON THE RINGING OF FRUIT TREES.

RINGING a tree cuts off the part operated upon from the circulation of the sap, and necessitates it to subsist principally on the nourishment which the leaves derive from the air. We will not say in what respects this nourishment differs from that which the tree derives from its roots; but we will remark that nature provides abundance of leaves for these buds which she intends to produce flowers.

Peach and apricot trees will not bear ringing, because they always produce their fruit on the young wood; and the vine still less, because it bears on the growing shoot. Ringing does not advance the fructification of either plum trees or young cherry trees; and it is apt to produce the gum in old trees of the latter species, as the wound is a long time before it heals. Apple trees shrivel above the ring; and, if they live, they do not soon bear any fruit. The pear tree thus remains the only species of fruit tree on which the operation of ringing can be practised with advantage.

Ringing may be performed at any season, but it only produces its full effect when undertaken in the spring, at the first appearance of the movement of the sap, and as soon as the bark begins to crack. The wound ought not to be wider than the thickness of the blade of a knife, if it is desired that it should heal before the end of the season. The operation ought to be performed on a side branch which is rather stronger and more elevated than its neighbors; or one which is badly placed, and which, in the end, may be removed without disfiguring the tree. A tree will not bear ringing either round the trunk or round the leading shoot, unless there should by chance be a second leader, and one may be removed without injury.

The tree which has had its trunk operated upon is in danger of either perishing, or remaining a long time in a sickly state; and, after it has recovered its health, its sterility will be more durable than if it had never undergone the operation.

If a branch is ringed too close to its base, or the point where it is inserted into the trunk, it will be in danger of being beaten down by the wind, or broken by the weight of fruit. A good place is at a quarter of the length of the bough, and beyond other side shoots, the eyes of which will also generally produce fruit.

The upper lip of the wound swells considerably, and the more so according as the ring has been broad, or the season far advanced. This tumefaction of the bark is partaken of by the wood; and the formation

of this tumor proves that it is principally by the descent of the sap, which has been elaborated in the leaves, that the tree increases in girt. It rarely happens that a pear tree, operated upon when it has attained the age for bearing, does not go into flower the same year that the operation is performed. There are, however, cases in which the repugnance of a tree to flower resists the efficacy of this method; these occur with all drooping trees, and whenever the wood is hard and rough; and, when at last trees, of this description do show flowers, it is upon another branch rather than on that which has been operated upon.

The eye which is constrained by ringing to form its flowers prematurely, is of the same description as a similar eye springing from the young wood: the flowers, in both cases, are very liable to drop off; and the fruit, when it becomes ripe, is deficient in color.

The fruit of a branch operated upon, if it comes to any thing, owes its strength to the state of suffering of the bough which bore it; it is unequal in bulk, very often small, worm-eaten, dry, cracked, gritty, and of an excessive sweetness, which it obtains at the expense of its juice. The fruit should be reduced, by thinning, to a very small number, if it is wished that they should attain perfection.

The new property which I have discovered to belong to ringing is that it causes the eyes of branches which have not undergone the operation, to flower also; and that these are almost always immediately opposite to the branches which have been operated upon, or a little above those branches. There is not a single case known where this effect has not been produced, though till now no one has remarked this excellent property, which is itself sufficient to prove the advantage, and perpetuate the practice, of ringing; because it not only makes the wounded branches produce fruit, but, by throwing those branches into bearing that are not mutilated, it ensures a fertility to the tree which is not likely to be soon interrupted.

Another mode of bringing fruit tress into bearing is, to take a ring of bark from some of the principal roots, at a little distance from the trunk. The ring ought to be more or less broad, according to the thickness of the root. The operation may be performed at any season, in April or May, as well as in August or September, without there being any reason to fear the extravasation of the sap, which is so prejudicial to the tree when the roots are pruned in the spring. A year, however, is gained when the operation is performed early in the season. There is no occasion to apply any dressing or covering to the wound: in fact, there is no occasion to do any thing more than to draw the earth round the tree, and to tread it down firmly with the feet. If the roots are not ringed all round the tree, the opposite side to that on which the incision has been made will bear fruit; which coincides with the effect produced by ringing on the branches, and denotes a physiological fact which has not been hitherto noticed. The wound heals so rapidly, that in about a year no traces of it can be discovered, except a few wrinkles in the bark. No excrescence is formed, and no other roots are sent out, either from the lips of the wound, or above or below it; at least, none that can be supposed to have been occasioned by the incision. The root operated upon appears, indeed, less likely to send out suckers than any of its neighbors. The fruit does not, in the slightest degree, participate in the state of disease or suffering in the tree, which has thrown it into bearing.

The wood of the shoot below the incision bursts almost always from the bark, or the lips of the wound: this wood is of the kind called false; and the buds of it ought to be rubbed off as soon as they appear; as preserving this wood can only injure the bark, and retard the healing of the wound.

The principal object of ringing ought to be, not to throw known varieties prematurely into fruit, or to make trees bear on which other resources may be resorted to in order to produce the same effect (such as shortening the largest roots, pruning the tree after the sap has risen, &c.); but to force young seedling plants to show early the bad or good quality of their fruit. It must, however, be used cautiously, as it sometimes does injury instead of good, and when applied to the side branch of an espalier, it produced no other effect than that of rendering wood sterile which was before only backward in bearing.

Ringing never produces a marked effect on the fertility of a branch more than one; if repeated the following year, it more frequently produces sterility, than a continuation of bearing.

The mode in which ringing affects a tree is precisely similar to the effect produced by many other modes of suffering which are employed to throw trees into beariffg: such as bending the tree, breaking or twisting the branches, transplanting, &c., and it should only be employed with one branch at a time; it cannot be applied to several branches at once, without disfiguring, and probably ruining, the tree.

Gardner's Magazine.

HOUSEHOLD DUTIES AND OPERATIONS.

WHATEVER arrangement the young housekeeper may make for keeping her accounts, we would urge most strongly the advantage of regularly, every week, paying her tradesmen's bills. On no account let her, if she would be a good economist, suffer them to remain unpaid for a longer period. Every thing will then be fresh in her memory, and she will be able to keep constantly before her the amount of her expenses, and thus save herself the misery of self-reproach. She will find it a good plan to have a book for each of her tradespeople, in which she may write her orders; and, the price being carried out, the book should be returned with the articles. The amount may be cast up every week, and settled.

There is perhaps nothing which forms so deceptive an item in the expenses of housekeeping as wine; and if any one will just calculate the cost, in the course of a year, of three or four glasses a day, the amount will appear almost startling. It is, most generally, a habit injurious to health, and destructive to the economy of time; and were the money, which is so often thus thoughtlessly expended, devoted to the enjoyments of a family, how much rational and useful recreation might be procured. This applies only when the expense is no part of the objection, but when the income is limited the habit becomes a sin. Let us recommend the use of a *cellar-book*, in which an account may be kept of the different wines received into the cellar from time to time, and of every bottle taken from it, with a memorandum of the particular purpose for which it was required. If carefully and strictly kept, it will soon teach its lesson. The form of such a book may be varied in many ways, but should it be requested, we will give a form which is most familiar to us, in our next number.

In cases of slops of gravy, &c., on table-linen, directions should be given for having them immediately washed out, even when not again to come to table, otherwise the marks will not be entirely got rid of for several washings (without the help of bleaching-liquid, the use of which injures linen); and a stained table-cloth can never look clean.

The following will be found an excellent method of washing, particularly in large establishments:—

Put the clothes over night in tubs of cold water; the following day make a mixture as follows:—

One pint of lime-water, eight gallons of soft water, one ounce of scraped soap, and one ounce of soda. Put these into a boiler with the clothes. After they begin to boil, let them continue to do so for half an hour; them take them out, and "peggy" them *well* in soft water; then wring them out, and rince them very thoroughly. To make the lime-water, put half a pound of quick-lime to one gallon of water; break it up, and stir it throughly; then let it remain till quite clear. This solution does not answer for flannels. The suds from the boiler will do to wash prints, &c. &c. The above makes the clothes as white as possible, and is a very economical plan. In order to wash and get up muslin and net particularly clear, a little isinglass should be used instead of starch; when dissolved it must be strained.

The best way of keeping sheets is to *fold* them *flat* in pairs, and lay them on shelves, one pair above another, and the fine and coarse in separate piles. A closet or cupboard, with shelves, should, in large families, be appropriated to the purpose of keeping the linen (being far better than the old-fashioned *chest*); for, when each division is *ticketed* with the article and number it ought to contain, the whole comes immediately under the eye, which facilitates the necessary operation of *counting* after each washing; and in large establishments this requires particularity and attention. When extra bedding comes from the wash, the linings (if any) should be tacked in, and all the pieces be carefully pinned up together and ticketed, so that, when any particular bed is wanted, it may not be necessary to open half a dozen to find it. All pieces and remnants of furniture should be kept together in an accessible place, ready for repairs. During the summer months the ticking of feather-beds, bolsters, and mattresses should be frequently beaten and dusted, especially when the ticks are of cotton, otherwise they become very full of dust, and when shaken in making, fill the room with dust also.

A cook should always be supplied with a piece of floor-cloth to put at the end of her kitchen table, in order to keep it clean, as the dirt and grease from saucepans is more easily removed from floor-cloth than from wood; little round mats, about an inch thick, and the size of a common plate, made of platted straw, with a straw ring by which they may be hung up, are very useful during the process of cooking, to place under stewpans and saucepans, when it is necessary to put them on the table.

In large establishments *each* servant should be furnished with brushes, pails, and whatever is requisite in her department, for her use *solely*; this prevents grumbling among servants; and in case of *misuse* or *disappearance*, blame will fall on the proper individual. It is astonishing how much confusion and discomfort may be avoided by attention to these trifles.

A mistress should provide her *housemaid* with a pair of strong gloves and a large coarse apron to clean her grates, &c. &c., which enables her to keep herself fit to be seen if called away in a hurry.

It is a good plan to give out on Saturday or Monday morning to each servant the quantity of soap allowed for the week's consumption, as also of tea and sugar. Of the two latter a reasonable quantity is three ounces of tea and three-quarters of a pound of loaf-sugar, or one pound of moist; half a pound of butter, and a quartern loaf. Calculating by this allowance a pretty correct estimate of what should be the week's expenditure may be made, varying occasionally

with circumstances. Regularity and punctuality are paramount qualifications in domestic management.

All orders should be given to servants in as few words as possible, with decision and gentleness, never varying (unless in particular circumstances) or breaking a promise, otherwise they will learn to disregard orders and become disrespectful.

It is a good plan always to give the cook a bill of fare when dinner is ordered, to prevent the possibility of mistakes and omission, and this may be best done by keeping a small slate hanging in some appropriate place with a bit of sponge and a pencil attached to it. When families reside in the country and have an opportunity of sending to a town only once or twice a week, it is quite necessary to keep a good-sized slate in an accessible place, in order that every member of the family may, when sensible of a want, make a memorandum of it at once, and thus avoid the discomfort of studying something (perhaps of importance) forgotten a few minutes after the messenger is despatched.

A good housewife always keeps a memorandum-book and pencil in her pocket, in case she should meet with any information worth recording.

At the season of harvest in the country, and more particularly in the hop counties, where there are many to provide for, it is very necessary to combine economy, with a due regard to the comfort of the labourers. Salt beef and bacon eaten *together* is more economical than mutton or any other meat. The beef should be pickled in small barrels during the previous spring. Mutton pasties are a good change, which are improved by the addition of sliced potatoes and onions in them. It is always more politic (setting humanity out of the question) to make the *comfort* of work-people a consideration as far as circumstances will permit; nothing will be lost in the end, for they will undoubtedly work with more spirit and cheerfulness.

At all times, but particularly during harvest, the consumption of bread should be watched, in order to bake in time, for nothing bespeaks bad management more than giving a large family *new* bread. Suppers of meat are also expected at that period, and it is both more comfortable for the workmen and more economical for the master to have it warmed up in the frying-pan with potatoes remaining from dinner-time. Warm meat goes farther than cold.

It is a good plan to prepare crockery and glass which will be used to hold hot water, by boiling it, which is effected by putting the articles into a kettle of cold water over the fire, letting them just boil, then taking the kettle off, and allowing them to remain in the water till cold.

Mag. Domestic Economy.

PARISIAN GARDENS.

It appears from statistical information in the French Agricultural journals, that the land cultivated around Paris, as kitchen gardens, yields an amount of nearly eight millions of dollars, annually, and maintains half a million of persons. The flowers and fruit produced there, yield also several millions of francs. About two hundred flower gardeners reside at Paris and in the neighborhood, and supply the markets of the capital. There are days, (especially the eves of the grand fetes,) when the sale is very large. H. Hericart de Thury, affirms that on the 14th of August last, $10,000 worth of flowers were sold in Paris, and that, in the depths of winter, certain grand *soirees* give rise to sales amounting to between 1,000 and 4,000 dollars. In the same season, bouquets of natural flowers are dispatched in tin boxes, not only to the remotest towns of France, but even to Munich, Vienna, and other distant foreign ports.

TALES, SKETCHES, &C.

For the Southern Cabinet.

Mr. Editor,—The accompanying letter is one of a package accidentally picked up on the road while journeying in the up-country, during the past summer. Having misplaced the first of the series, you had as well give to your readers the second. In my opinion, they will find much in them to amuse. A READER.

IRISH LETTERS ABOUT SOUTHERN AFFAIRS, &c.

LETTER II.

SOUTH PART OF THE UNITED STATES, June 3rd, 1839.

To BARNEY O'SULLIVAN, at his Honor's Roderick O'Connors, O'Connor Castle, County Dublin, Ireland.

MY DEAR BARNEY,—In my last letter I promised to give you a description of the play at the tespian society; but I'm thinking it is easier said than done, for it would take a genus, as Mister Roderick says, to do it justice, and that's not me, nor the likes of me. Any how, I'll attempt it, so here goes. But first of all, just let me say a bit about the place where the gintleman performed in, and then I'll begin. It was a long wooden building divided into two parts, that is to say, as my school-master used to tell us, one thing cut in two by means of some cleaving line. The stage in front was a most illegant blue stone archway, made of canvass and paint, with a likeness of the Mister Shakespur that the landlord tould Mister about, stuck right up in the middle of the top, with a couple of statues of women on each side, that they called tragidee and comidy: one looking mighty funny and the other killing cross. The curtain, as he called the pictur in front; you see Barney, Mister tell'd me a good many of the names of the things in the house: the pictures begin to rowl up from bottom to top as soon as they ring a bell, and then, my honey, a parcel of nice looking garsoons begin to come in from one side and the other, and talk'd to each other until a most beautiful young crature of a lady, nicely dressed, comed in, and the Moor, as they called a divil of a quare looking spalpeen, of about six feet high, that looked as if he had been made of blue clay and then rowled in brick dust groun'd fine, with a piece of white rag twisted round his head, and a mighty thin white sheet tied about his neck, fell over his shoulders—a good broad pair, I can tell you: broad enough to serve the best hedger and ditcher in all Ireland; it covered his back—more power to it for a broad stout one; it would do famously to carry a sack of pratees any day, but thin his arms and legs did not seem as if they belonged to the body, but were intindid to be used for some other

purpose than to walk with, or handle a shelaleigh or even a paltry bit of a sword, they were so thin and lathy.

Well, this spalpeen was called Otello Moore. I wonder if he belonged to the family of the Moores in Dublin, or if he was any kin to our own Tom. I don't think he was: for he got mighty jealous of Desdamony after he married her, and Tom, you know, would do no sich a thing as that for the world. Tom's too much of an Irishman for that. Now ye see, this fellow, Otello Moore, stole away Miss Desdamony from her father. Musha! bad look to her taste in taking him for a husband: couldn't she have married a dacent looking chap like you or me, and not that dirty nagur. Why Barney, he wasn't fit to sell for a slave: no more he wasn't; it's meself do'sn't know how he managed to blarney her into the way of falling in love with him; but the divil himself can't match the women in taste whin they take it into their heads to fall in love. Didn't Nora Corcoran fall in love with Phelim McCormack, a poor, ugly, crooked back, cross-ey'd, splinter of the divil's shin bone, and left meself, a clain, dacent, clever boy as ever broke bread, to wander by myself through the wide world alone, that could have made her a good husband,——but no matter, that scrape is all over now, and I'm glad of it. Well, this same Otello Moore run away with the girl, and whin her father found it out he was as mad as a March hare, and had him brought before the king of that country, I think it is called Venus; and there he was asked what he had to say for himself, and they ware going to play the very mischief with him, if he hadn't made an excuse for his bad behaviour; and so the matter was hushed up, and all things was going on very well, until a long, lankey, black hearted looking limb of the ould boy, begins to tell Otello that his wife didn't love him, and a great many other things beside, and this made the Gineral quite jealous. This fellow's name was Ago;—but I forgot to tell you that Mister Otello was a Gineral of Venus, and a terrible fellow for fighting; and he thought Ago was a very good friend of his: but Barney, Otello is not the first man who has placed too much faith in a false hearted villain, who pretends to be one's friend. No, by my sowl, my deer.

Well sir, this Ago makes a great deal of mischief, and gets the fellows a fighting, and makes one fellow drunk, and then cuts him across the back of his legs and stabs another, and all the while the rascal made out like he was so good,—that he was a friend to every body. So soon as he murther'd two or three of them he called out, murther and robbery, and a whole heap of people come on the stage, and do ye know that he had the rascality to charge an innocent man with the crime. But he didn't get off so aisy, kase there was a great big, ruff looking horse-drover from the wild parts of Amerikee, called Kentuc, sitting on the back seat, with a big whip in his hand, who had been quietly watching the fellow's tricks; but he could stand it no longer, and when he saw that an innocent man was about to suffer, he jist balls out, "Hillo you,—now that's a darnat'n lie you're telling. I saw ye murther that man, and if ye deny it, just walk out, yerself and as many as will take your part, and I'll shew you fun. I kin whip the whole bunch of ye, black and white, and that slate coloured mulatto with the white sheet on him into the bargain." Me own blood begin to rise too: for every body in the house was laughing at the drover and the fellows on the stage, and so I bounced up and sung out, long life to you, my hearty; I'll stand be-

side ye, and give the spalpeens a small taste of shelaleigh law, with all the pleasure in life. With that I sings out "Fagh-a-ballough;"* and I make one spring towards the stage to lay holt of the chap *Ago*. O, if I could only have laid my kit-hoyne on him, the divil his mister couldn't have saved him: but jist as I come to the candles that was behind a bit of a board set on its edge to keep the light out of the ladies' eyes, Mister Roderick lays hoult of me, and commands me to go back and take my seat, and behave myself. Well, back I goes, for you know, there's no going agin him any way. Fare-an-aghers, what a pity to spoil sport jist as it was beginning. Och, Barney, I could have given the rascal the purtiest lambeasting he ever experienced in all his born days, if the mister hadn't sint me back; but thin, you see, the Kentuck wasn't like me, for he was independent entirely, and so it took more to pacify him, but that same was no easy matter I can tell you: for he kept talking about allegaiters, and panthers, and bears, and his weight in wild cats, and a hole heap of other things that I don't understand. By this time he had a crowd of men 'round him, trying to coax him to be quiet: among the rest the man that kept the door, a fat, round, rosy faced, good humoured looking blade, who told the Kentuck to behave himself, for it was all play and fun, and no reality at all, at all. After a while he sat down, and the garsoons on the stage began to play agin.

By this time Otello was completely gone mad with jealusy by means of that black looking rascal Ago: then poor Desdermony had the life of the very divil, in consequence of a pocket hankerchee that she dropt and was picked up by Ago's wife and shewn to the Gineral. Well, the poor thing could git no peace or quietness, and all she could do wou'dn't convince Otello of her innocence, so at last, my deer, he determines to put the poor cratur to death, bad luck to him, for a dirty slate colored baste. Sarve her right: she had no business to marry him.

Howsomever, he meets her alone in her room, and steals in with a candle in one hand, and he locks the door. This waken'd up Desdermony, who was fast asleep: a perfect beauty without paint; and says he, have you said your prayers? Why do you ax me, my lord, says she;—my lord! O, jist think of that, Barney, for a purty cratur like her to call the baste me lord, and he going to murther her. Musha! what is the world come to any how. Never a word more did he say, but tells her she must die, and he takes the pillow in his hand, and goes over to the bed where she lay in all her loveliness, with the big tears in her eyes, and the beseeching word upon her saft tongue, enough to melt the heart of anybody, barrin' the baste of the brute she was spakeing to. Barney, Barney: how the divil could mortal man stand sich a sight. My blood was up agin, and I was ready for another dash at the villain, but Master Roderick gave me another of his hard looks, which towld me I was to keep quiet. I was mighty hard pushed to do so, but I did. Well, Sir, he goes to the bed and puts the pillow on her purty mouth, and lent his whole weight down upon her to smother her. How, in the name of St. Patrick, could a Christian community stand such a sight, I don'no; but they did, and more the pity. I often thought to myself, that I would go agin Mister Roderick for once' and jist give the slate colored brute a mulroguing; but thin the Mister looked so comical at the most serious parts, and the

* Clear the road.

people in the house seemed to be so merry that meself was greatly puzzled to know what to make of it: so I jist let him alone to see what he would do, and never a word of lie in it, but at the very moment every body was expectin' the cratur to be dead, she cries out from under the pillow, "O, don't, Mr. Otello, you hurt me." By my sowl, Barney, you never heard such a roar of laughing in all your born days as the people had; and while this was going on, a parcel of men and wimen come into the room, and then there was the dickens to pay. One said one thing, and one said another, and it all ended with Otello running a dagger into his heart. Bad luk to him, he ought to ha' done that long ago. No sooner had he taken the dagger out of his heart, then he turns up the whites of his eyes like a duck in thunder, and falls flat across the bed, when down comes Desdermony, bed and all, and in a minit they were out of sight. The ladies screamed, the men laughed, and the nagers cried out, yah, yah, yah! for the whole boilin' of them tumbled right out into the street through a door at the back of the stage. By reason of the table thus sarved for a bedstead breaking, and the door being open, they slipped out with the greatest convenience to themselves. By this time the curt'in fell; but there was great noise, and so I run round to see what the fun was, and then I found the Kentuck lamin away at the slate colored chap, and as fighting is agreeable to an Irishman at all times, I lent a hand, and got my eyes blacken'd and kilt, and when I cum to my sinces, by my sowl, I was in jail for breaking the peace and a man's head into the bargain. More in my next, from

Your friend and countryman,

TERRENCE O'ROOKE.

THE BERMUDAS.

A SHAKSPERIAN RESEARCH: BY THE AUTHOR OF THE SKETCH-BOOK.

Who did not think, till within these foure yeares, but that these islands had been rather a habitation for Divells, than fit for men to dwell in? Who did not hate the name, when hee was on land, and shun the place when he was on the seas? But behold the misprision and conceits of the world! For true and large experience hath now told us, it is one of the sweetest paradises that be upon earth. 'A PLAINE DESCRIPT. OF THE BARMUDAS:' 1613.

IN the course of a voyage home from England, our ship had been struggling, for two or three weeks, with perverse head-winds, and a stormy sea. It was in the month of May, yet the weather had at times a wintery sharpness, and it was apprehended that we were in the neighborhood of floating islands of ice, which at that season of the year drift out of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and sometimes occasion the wreck of noble ships.

Wearied out by the continued opposition of the elements, our captain at length bore away to the south, in hopes of catching the expiring breath of the trade-winds, and making what is called the southern passage. A few days wrought, as it were, a magical 'sea change' in every thing around us. We seemed to emerge into a different world. The late dark and angry sea, lashed up into roaring and swashing surges, became calm and sunny; the rude winds died away, and gradually a light breeze sprang up directly aft, filling out every sail, and wafting us smoothly

along on an even keel. The air softened into a bland and delightful temperature. Dolphins began to play about us; the nautilus came floating by, like a fairy ship, with its mimic sail and rainbow tints: and flying-fish, from time to time, made their short excursive flights, and occasionally fell upon the deck. The cloaks and overcoats in which we had hitherto wrapped ourselves, and moped about the vessel, were thrown aside; for a summer warmth had succeeded to the late wintry chills. Sails were stretched as awnings over the quarter-deck, to protect us from the mid-day sun. Under these we lounged away the day, in luxurious indolence, musing, with half-shut eyes, upon the quiet ocean. The night was scarcely less beautiful than the day. The rising moon sent a quivering column of silver along the undulating surface of the deep, and, gradually climbing the heaven, lit up our towering top-sails and swelling main-sails, and spread a pale, mysterious light around. As our ship made her whispering way through this dreamy world of waters, every boisterous sound on board was charmed to silence; and the low whistle, or drowsy song, of a sailor from the forecastle, or the tinkling of a guitar, and the soft warbling of a female voice from the quarter-deck, seemed to derive a witching melody from the scene and hour. I was reminded of Oberon's exquisite description of music and moonlight on the ocean:

> ——'Thou rememberest
> Since once I sat upon a promontory,
> And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back,
> Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
> That the rude sea grew civil at her song;
> And certain stars shot madly from their spheres,
> To hear the sea-maid's music.'

Indeed, I was in the very mood to conjure up all the imaginary beings with which poetry has peopled old ocean, and almost ready to fancy I heard the distant song of the mermaid, or the mellow shell of the triton, and to picture to myself Neptune and Amphitrite with all their pageant sweeping along the dim horizon.

A day or two of such fanciful voyaging, brought us in sight of the Bermudas, which first looked like mere summer clouds, peering above the quiet ocean. All day we glided along in sight of them, with just wind enough to fill our sails; and never did land appear more lovely. They were clad in emerald verdure, beneath the serenest of skies; not an angry wave broke upon their quiet shores, and small fishing craft, riding on the crystal waves, seemed as if hung in air. It was such a scene that Fletcher pictured to himself, when he extolled the halcyon lot of the fisherman:

> Ah! would thou knewest how much it better were
> To bide among the simple fisher-swains:
> No shrieking owl, no night-crow lodgeth here,
> Nor is our simple pleasure mixed with pains.
> Our sports begin with the beginning year;
> In calms, to pull the leaping fish to land,
> In roughs, to sing and dance along the yellow sand.

In contemplating these beautiful islands, and the peaceful sea around them, I could hardly realize that these were the 'still vexed Bermoothes' of Shakspeare, once the dread of mariners, and infamous in the narratives of the early discoverers, for the dangers and disasters which beset them. Such, however, was the case; and the islands derived additional interest in my eyes, from fancying that I could trace in their early history,

and in the superstitious notions connected with them, some of the elements of Shakspeare's wild and beautiful drama of the Tempest. I shall take the liberty of citing a few historical facts, in support of this idea, which may claim some additional attention from the American reader, as being connected with the first settlement of Virginia.

At the time when Shakspeare was in the fulness of his talent, and seizing upon every thing that could furnish aliment to his imagination, the colonization of Virginia was a favorite object of enterprise among people of condition in England, and several of the courtiers of the court of Queen Elizabeth were personally engaged in it. In the year 1609, a noble armament of nine ships and five hundred men sailed for the relief of the colony. It was commanded by Sir George Somers, as admiral, a gallant and generous gentlemen, above sixty years of age, and possessed of an ample fortune, yet still bent upon hardy enterprise, and ambitious of signalizing himself in the service of his country.

On board of his flag-ship, the Sea-Vulture, sailed also Sir Thomas Gates, lieutenant-general of the colony. The voyage was long and boisterous. On the 25th of July, the admiral's ship was separated from the rest, in a hurricane. For several days she was driven about at the mercy of the elements, and so strained and racked, that her seams yawned open, and her hold was half filled with water. The storm sub sided, but left her a mere foundering wreck. The crew stood in the hold to their waists in water, vainly endeavoring to bail her with kettles, buckets, and other vessels. The leaks rapidly gained on them, while their strength was as rapidly declining. They lost all hope of keeping the ship afloat, until they should reach the American coast; and wearied with fruitless toil, determined, in their despair, to give up all farther attempt, shut down the hatches, and abandon themselves to Providence. Some, who had spirituous liquors, or 'comfortable waters,' as the old record quaintly terms them, brought them forth, and shared them with their comrades, and they all drank a sad farewell to one another, as men who were soon to part company in this world.

In this moment of extremity, the worthy admiral, who kept sleepless watch from the high stern of the vessel, gave the thrilling cry of 'land!' All rushed on deck, in a frenzy of joy, and nothing now was to be seen or heard on board, but the transports of men who felt as if rescued from the grave. It is true the land in sight would not, in ordinary circumstances, have inspired much self-gratulation. It could be nothing else but the group of islands called after their discoverer, one Juan Bermudas, a Spaniard, but stigmatized among the mariners of those days as 'the islands of devils!' 'For the islands of the Bermudas,' says the old narrative of this voyage, 'as every man knoweth that hath heard or read of them, were never inhabited by any christian or heathen people, but were ever esteemed and reputed a most prodigious and inchanted place, affording nothing but gusts, storms, and foul weather, which made every navigator and mariner to avoide them as Scylla and Charybdis, or as they would shun the Divell himself.'*

Sir George Somers and his tempest-tossed comrades, however, hailed them with rapture, as if they had been a terrestrial paradise. Every sail was spread, and every exertion made to urge the foundering ship to land. Before long, she struck upon a rock. Fortunately, the late

*'A Plaine Description of the Barmudas.'

stormy winds had subsided, and there was no surf. A swelling wave lifted her from off the rock, and bore her to another; and thus she was borne on from rock to rock, until she remained wedged between two, as firmly as if set upon the stocks. The boats were immediately lowered, and, though the shore was above a mile distant, the whole crew were landed in safety.

Every one had now his task assigned him. Some made all haste to unload the ship, before she should go to pieces; some constructed wigwams of palmetto leaves, and others ranged the island in quest of wood and water. To their surprise and joy, they found it far different from the desolate and frightful place they had been taught, by seamen's stories, to expect. It was well wooded and fertile; there were birds of various kinds, and herds of swine roaming about, the progeny of a number that had swum ashore, in former years, from a Spanish wreck. The island abounded with turtle, and great quantities of their eggs were to be found among the rocks. The bays and inlets were full of fish; so tame, that if any one stepped into the water, they would throng around him. Sir George Somers, in a little while, caught enough with hook and line to furnish a meal to his whole ship's company. Some of them were so large, that two were as much as a man could carry. Crawfish, also, were taken in abundance. The air was soft and salubrious, and the sky beautifully serene. Waller, in his 'Summer Islands,' has given us a faithful picture of the climate:

> 'For the kind spring, (which but salutes us here,)
> Inhabits these, and courts them all the year:
> Ripe fruits and blossoms on the same trees live;
> At once they promise, and at once they give:
> So sweet the air, so moderate the clime,
> None sickly lives, or dies before his time.
> Heaven sure has kept this spot of earth uncursed,
> To shew how all things were created first.'

We may imagine the feelings of the shipwrecked mariners, on finding themselves cast by stormy seas upon so happpy a coast; where abundance was to be had without labor; where what in other climes constituted the costly luxuries of the rich, were within every man's reach; and where life promised to be a mere holiday. Many of the common sailors, especially, declared they desired no better lot than to pass the rest of their lives on this favored island.

The commanders, however, were not so ready to console themselves with mere physical comforts, for the severance from the enjoyment of cultivated life, and all the objects of honorable ambition. Despairing of the arrival of any chance ship on these shunned and dreaded islands, they fitted out the long-boat, making a deck of the ship's hatches, and having manned her with eight picked men, despatched her, under the command of an able and hardy mariner, named Raven, to proceed to Virginia, and procure shipping to be sent to their relief.

While waiting in anxious idleness for the arrival of the looked-for aid, dissensions arose between Sir George Somers and Sir Thomas Gates, originating, very probably, in jealousy of the lead which the nautical experience and professional station of the admiral gave him in the present emergency. Each commander of course had his adherents: these dissensions ripened into a complete schism; and this handful of shipwrecked men, thus thrown together on an uninhabited island, separated into two parties, and lived asunder in bitter feud, as men rendered

fickle by prosperity, instead of being brought into brotherhood by a common calamity.

Weeks and months elapsed, without bringing the looked-for aid from Virginia, though that colony was within but a few days' sail. Fears were now entertained that the long-boat had been either swallowed up in the sea, or wrecked on some savage coast; one or other of which most probably was the case, as nothing was ever heard of Raven and his comrades.

Each party now set to work to build a vessel for itself out of the cedar with which the island abounded. The wreck of the Sea-Vulture furnished rigging, and various other articles; but they had no iron for bolts, and other fastenings; and for want of pitch and tar, they payed the seams of their vessels with lime and turtle's oil, which soon dried, and became as hard as stone.

On the tenth of May, 1610, they set sail, having been about nine months on the island. They reached Virginia without farther accident, but found the colony in great distress for provisions. The account they gave of the abundance that reigned in the Bermudas, and especially of the herds of swine that roamed the island, determined Lord Delaware, the governor of Virginia, to send thither for supplies. Sir George Somers, with his wonted promptness and generosity, offered to undertake what was still considered a dangerous voyage. Accordingly, on the nineteenth of June, he set sail, in his own cedar vessel of thirty tons, accompanied by another small vessel, commanded by Captain Argall.

The gallant Somers was doomed again to be tempest-tossed. His companion vessel was soon driven back to port, but he kept the sea; and, as usual, remained at his post on deck, in all weathers. His voyage was long and boisterous, and the fatigues and exposures which he underwent, were too much for a frame impaired by age, and by previous hardships. He arrived at Bermudas completely exhausted and broken down.

His nephew, Captain Mathew Somers, attended him in his illness with affectionate assiduity. Finding his end approaching, the veteran called his men together, and exhorted them to be true to the interests of Virginia; to procure provisions, with all possible despatch, and hasten back to the relief of the colony.

With this dying charge, he gave up the ghost, leaving his nephew and crew overwhelmed with grief and consternation. Their first thought was to pay honor to his remains. Opening the body, they took out the heart and entrails, and buried them, erecting a cross over the grave. They then embalmed the body, and set sail with it for England; thus, while paying empty honors to their deceased commander, neglecting his earnest wish and dying injunction, that they should return with relief to Virginia.

The little bark arrived safely at Whitechurch, in Dorsetshire, with its melancholy freight. The body of the worthy Somers was interred with the military honors due to a brave soldier, and many vollies were fired over his grave. The Bermudas have since received the name of the Somer Islands, as a tribute to his memory.

The accounts given by Captain Mathew Somers and his crew of the delightful climate, and the great beauty, fertility, and abundance of these islands, excited the zeal of enthusiasts, and the cupidity of specu-

lators, and a plan was set on foot to colonize them. The Virginia company sold their right to the islands to one hundred and twenty of their own members, who erected themselves into a distinct corporation, under the name of the 'Somer Island Society;' and Mr. Richard More was sent out, in 1612, as governor, with sixty men, to found a colony: and this leads me to the second branch of this research.

THE THREE KINGS OF BERMUDA.

AND THEIR TREASURE OF AMBERGRIS.

At the time that Sir George Somers was preparing to launch his cedar-built bark, and sail for Virginia, there were three culprits among his men, who had been guilty of capital offences. One of them was shot; the others, named Christopher Carter and Edward Waters, escaped. Waters, indeed, made a very narrow escape, for he had actually been tied to a tree to be executed, but cut the rope with a knife, which he had concealed about his person, and fled to the woods, where he was joined by Carter. These two worthies kept themselves concealed in the secret parts of the island, until the departure of the two vessels. When Sir George Somers revisited the island, in quest of supplies for the Virginia colony, these culprits hovered about the landing-place, and succeeded in persuading another seaman, named Edward Chard, to join them, giving him the most seductive pictures of the ease and abundance in which they revelled.

When the bark that bore Sir George's body to England had faded from the watery horizon, these three vagabonds walked forth in their majesty and might, the lords and sole inhabitants of these islands. For a time their little commonwealth went on prosperously and happily. They built a house, sowed corn, and the seeds of various fruits; and having plenty of hogs, wild fowl, and fish of all kinds, with turtle in abundance, carried on their tripartite sovereignty with great harmony and much feasting. All kingdoms, however, are doomed to revolution, convulsion, or decay; and so it fared with the empire of the three kings of Bermuda, albeit they were monarchs without subjects. In an evil hour, in their search after turtle, among the fissures of the rocks, they came upon a great treasure of ambergris, which had been cast on shore by the ocean. Beside a number of pieces of smaller dimensions, there was one great mass, the largest that had ever been known, weighing eighty pounds, and which of itself, according to the market value of ambergris in those days, was worth about nine or ten thousand pounds!

From that moment, the happiness and harmony of the three kings of Bermuda were gone for ever. While poor devils, with nothing to share but the common blessings of the island, which administered to present enjoyment, but had nothing of convertible value, they were loving and united; but here was actual wealth, which would make them rich men, whenever they could transport it to a market.

Adieu the delights of the island! They now became flat and insipid! Each pictured to himself the consequence he might now aspire to, in civilized life, could he once get there with this mass of ambergris. No longer a poor Jack Tar, frolicking in the low taverns of Wapping, he might roll through London in his coach, and perchance arrive, like Whittington, at the dignity of Lord Mayor.

With riches came envy and covetousness. Each was now for assuming the supreme power, and getting the monopoly of the ambergris. A civil war at length broke out: Chard and Waters defied each other to mortal combat, and the kingdom of the Bermudas was on the point of being deluged with royal blood. Fortunately, Carter took no part in the bloody feud. Ambition might have made him view it with secret exultation; for if either or both of his brother potentates were slain in the conflict, he would be a gainer in purse and ambergris. But he dreaded to be left alone in this uninhabited island, and to find himself the monarch of a solitude: so he secretly purloined and hid the weapons of the belligerent rivals, who, having no means of carrying on the war, gradually cooled down into a sullen armistice.

The arrival of Governor More, with an overpowering force of sixty men, put an end to the empire. He took possession of the kingdom, in the name of the Somer Island Company, and forthwith proceeded to make a settlement. The three kings tacitly relinquished their sway, but stood up stoutly for their treasure. It was determined, however, that they had been fitted out at the expense, and employed in the service, of the Virginia Company; that they had found the ambergris while in the service of that company, and on that company's land; that the ambergris, therefore, belonged to that company, or rather to the Somer Island Company, in consequence of their recent purchase of the island, and all their appurtenances. Having thus legally established their right, and being moreover able to back it by might, the company laid the lion's paw upon the spoil; and nothing more remains on historic record of the Three Kings of Bermuda, and their treasure of ambergris.

THE reader will now determine whether I am more extravagant than most of the commentators on Shakspeare, in my surmise that the story of Sir George Somers' shipwreck, and the subsequent occurrences that took place on the uninhabited island, may have furnished the bard with some of the elements of his drama of the Tempest. The tidings of the shipwreck, and of the incidents connected with it, reached England not long before the production of this drama, and made a great sensation there. A narrative of the whole matter, from which most of the foregoing particulars are extracted, was published at the time in London, in a pamphlet form, and could not fail to be eagerly perused by Shakspeare, and to make a vivid impression on his fancy. His expression, in the Tempest, of 'the still vext Bermoothes,' accords exactly with the storm-beaten character of those islands. The enchantments, too, with which he has clothed the island of Prospero, may they not be traced to the wild and superstitious notions entertained about the Bermudas? I have already cited two passages from a pamphlet published at the time, showing that they were esteemed 'a most *prodigious* and *inchanted* place,' and the 'habitation of divells;' and another pamphlet, published shortly afterward, observes: 'And whereas it is reported that this land of the Barmudas, with the islands about, (which are many, at least an hundred,) are inchanted, and kept with evil and wicked spirits, it is a most idle and false report.'*

The description, too, given in the same pamphlets, of the real beauty and fertility of the Bermudas, and of their serene and happy climate, so

* 'Newes from the Barmudas:' 1612.

opposite to the dangerous and inhospitable character with which they had been stigmatized, accords with the eulogium of Sebastian on the island of Prospero:

'Though this island seem to be desert, uninhabitable, and almost inaccessible, it must needs be of subtle, tender, and delicate temperance. The air breathes upon us here most sweetly. Here is every thing advantageous to life. How lush and lusty the grass looks! how green!'

I think too, in the exulting consciousness of ease, security, and abundance, felt by the late tempest-tossed mariners, while revelling in the plenteousness of the island, and their inclination to remain there, released from the labors, the cares, and the artificial restraints of civilized life, I can see something of the golden commonwealth of honest Gonzalo:

'Had I plantation of this isle, my lord,
And were the king of it, what would I do?
I' the commonwealth I would by contraries
Execute all things: for no kind of traffic
Would I admit; no name of magistrate;
Letters should not be known; riches, poverty,
And use of service, none; contract, succession,
Bourn, bound of land, tilth, vineyard, none;
No use of metal, corn, or wine, or oil;
No occupation; all men idle, all.

. . . . . .

All things in common, nature should produce,
Without sweat or endeavor: Treason, felony,
Sword, pike, knife, gun, or need of any engine,
Would I not have; but nature should bring forth,
Of its own kind, all foizon, all abundance,
To feed my innocent people.'

But above all, in the three fugitive vagabonds who remained in possession of the island of Bermuda, on the departure of their comrades, and in their squabbles about supremacy, on the finding of their treasure, I see typified Sebastian, Trinculo, and their worthy companion Caliban:

'Trinculo, the king and all our company being drowned, we will inherit here.'
'Monster, I will kill this man; his daughter and I will be king and queen, (save our graces!) and Trinculo and thyself shall be viceroys.'

I do not mean to hold up the incidents and characters in the narrative and in the play as parallel, or as being strikingly similar: neither would I insinuate that the narrative suggested the play; I would only suppose that Shakspeare, being occupied about that time on the drama of the Tempest, the main story of which, I believe, is of Italian origin, had many of the fanciful ideas of it suggested to his mind by the shipwreck of Sir George Somers on the 'still vext Bermoothes,' and by the popular superstitions connected with these islands, and suddenly put in circulation by that event.

ABD-EL-KADER.

THE Hadji Abd-el-Kader Oulid Mahiddin, who has just renewed hostilities with France, belongs to a most ancient family of Marabouts, and descends, like his kinsman, the Emperor of Morocco, from the Fatimite Calaphs. He was born at Guetna, a sort of seminary near Mascara, on the Hachem territory, where the Marabouts, his ancestors, assembled a number of young men to instruct them in letters, theology, and jurisprudence. Abd-el-Kader was educated as well as a Arab can be, by his father, Sidi Mahiddin, who turned to the best account his intelligence and energy. As yet but a boy not a passage of the Koran perplexed him, and his explanations were readier than those of the ablest commentators. He, likewise, diligently applied himself to oratory and history, and so successfully that he is now the most eloquent speaker in his country (an immense advantage among the Arabs) and perfectly acquainted with the annals of his nation. Nor did he neglect the exercises of the body, in which he excels, he being generally reckoned the best horseman in the Barbary States. In short, at the early age of twenty he was distinguished for all the qualities which men like to behold in those whom they place at their head.

Adb-el-Kader is now about thirty-one years old; he is of middling height, with little *embonpoint;* his countenance is mild, expressive and distinguished; his eyes are very fine, his beard thin and dark, and his teeth, which are ill set, are blue spotted; his hands, of which he takes particular care, are extrely fine and delicate; his head is generally somewhat inclined towards his left shoulder; his manners are affable, and most polite and dignified; he seldom is betrayed into anger, but always keeps a command over himself; in short, to quote the words of an intelligent and impartial French officer of rank who has been employed upon negotiations with the natives almost ever since the occupation of Algiers, "the whole person of the Emir is fascinating, and it is difficult to know and not to like him."

Abd-el-Kader is a man of great bravery, yet his mind is perhaps better adapted to Government than to military affairs. Though gifted with great fortitude and perseverance, he has occasionally betrayed some dejection in the arduous circumstances he has had to contend with. His manners are pure, even rigidly so; he has but one wife, whom he most tenderly loves. Three years ago his family consisted only of a daughter, then four or five years old, and of a son, born a few days before the French entered, and destroyed Mascara. When in his capital he dwelt with his family in a rather fine house, but which was not the palace. He lived there without any guards, and as a private individual. Every day, at an early hour, he repaired to the palace, or beylick, to transact public business and give audiences. In the evening he returned to his house, and again became a private individual.

Abd-el-Kader is equally unpresuming in his dress, his costume being that of a mere Arab, without any sort of ornament or badge of distinction. If he displays any splendour it is about his arms and horses. At one time he wore a burnous, the tassels of which were of gold, but one of brothers-in-law, whom he had appointed Kaid of a powerful tribe, having indulged in that station in a pomp which had excited some discontent, he sent for him, and after censuring his conduct, added, "Follow my example; I am richer and more powerful than you, yet see how I am

dressed; I will not even retain those paltry tassels that you see hanging to my burnous."

He immediately cut them off, and from that moment has never worn the slightest bit of gold or silver about his person.

Abd-el-Kader is very fond of study, to which he devotes the few hours that he can spare from his active life. A little library accompanies him in all his movements. When on any expedition he displays much more of royalty than when in town; he then lives under a superb and convenient tent, in a nook of which, elegantly fitted up, he gives private audiences and attends to state affairs. In the camp he employs his time as follows, when the day is not taken up with military operations:—On reaching his tent, after a day's march, he keeps by him but one servant, and after some minutes devoted to dressing and cleanliness, summons his secretaries and principal offiers, in succession, and works with them till four o'clock; he then presents himself at the entrance of his tent, and himself says the public prayers; he next preaches for half an hour, taking care to select a religious text that may naturally lead him to inculcate the notions it suits him to propagate upon war and politics; nobody, however, is obliged to attend his sermons. Some moments after he sits down to table with his chief secretary and confidential friend, Miloud-Ben-Arach, his brothers, when they are with the army, and the oftener one of his agas. The dishes served up to him are few in number, but good and carefully prepared.

Abd-el-Kader appears to have religious feelings and due notions of Providence; but he is no fanatic. He does not dread discussing religious matters with Christians, and he argues with politeness and without aspe rity. He is an honest man, and has well-established moral principles; though subtle and cunning, in a diplomatic point of view, he is a faithful observer of his word. Nothing is more foreign to his nature than cruelty; he governs the Arabs with justice and mildness, thereby confuting those who maintain that they can be governed only by terror. Whenever it has been in his power he has acted with clemency and generosity towards his enemies. Two only have suffered death under his government, and that after due trial—the Cadi of Arzew and Sidi-el-Gomarez, Sheik of Angad, who was hung at Mascara, in August, 1835.

The conversation of Abd-el-Kader is very animated, and at times witty. In private life he is considered parsimonious; but as a Prince he knows full well how and when to be liberal. In financial and commercial matters his notions are most of them erroneous.

The remarkable man whose portrait we have just derived from authentic data, is the most formidable foe that the French have to contend with in their efforts to assert their pretended rights over the vast territory extending from the Mediterranean to the Sa Lara, and from the frontier of Morocco to that of Tunis. Whilst pursuing the object of their ambition at an enormous expense of men and money, and by the alternate employment of force, treachery, extortion, and cruelty, Abd-el-Kader, undaunted by the strides of his powerful neighbors, has gradually risen, by dint of bravery, sagacity, and perseverance, to the possession of no small share of the empire which they would exclusively secure to themselves. Whilst their policy has fluctuated under the influence of systems as various as the Administrations formed at Paris, or the many Governors-General sent out to Africa, the young Emir has steadily pursued his

object, and become unto the Arabs a leader and a centre of action—a leader whose talents and gallantry in the field his Gallic enemies have already tried. *Morning Post.*

THE EXQUISITE AT COVER.

"————Huntsman, bring
Thy eager pack, and trail him to his couch.
Hark! the loud peal begins, the clamorous joy,
The gallant chiding, load the trembling air."

"Hark in, hark in!" shouted the huntsman, as the eager pack rushed into a promising, thick-set cover.

"Gracious me! what exceeding hensum enimels, to be sure," exclaimed a perfct young-lady captivater, looking at the hounds through a suspended eye-glass. "I had no idea the *thing* was half so picturesqe."

"Now, sir, foxes have ears, recollect," remarked the huntsman in a reproving voice.

"Is it possible? I never saw a specimen; but still—"

"I wish you would be still, sir. How the deuse can a 'warmint' break with your clapper ringing like any old woman's?"

The highly indignant huntsman was regarded with a profound stare of astonishment from the glass of the hero, Mr. Charles Olivier. He had not the slightest conception that breathing the lowest whisper was contrary to the strict rules of hunting when the hounds were in cover—that a sneeze was unpardonable, and that a cough at once merited choking. Mr. Olivier wondered what on earth he had done to excite the portrayed anger of the huntsman. "Gracious me! what did I say to excite that horrid vandal?" mentally asked Mr. Olivier, and he was screwing up his lips to whistle an opera tune, when a musical cry from a hound, ringing through the wood, announced that sly Reynard was a-foot.

"Hark to Rattler—hark to Ringwood, Fearless, Warbler—hark to Warbler!" hallooed the huntsman, as one after the other joined, helter-skelter, in the music of the chase. The impatient sportsmen, with palpitating hearts, surrounded the cover, holding tightened reins upon their ardent horses. All were watching for the glorious "break," with "Tally-ho!" ready to burst from every longing tongue. The horses, with pricked ears and glaring eye-balls, pawed the ground and champed their bits with anticipation of delight.

The personification of tailors', hatters', and perfumers' advertisements, Mr. Charles Olivier, seeing his friend Colonel Scourfield within a few yards, cantered his graceful galloway towards him.

"Ah! my dear colonel, how de doo?" inquired Mr. Olivier, checking his ambling nag. "I never saw this enimel called a fox. By what means shall I be enabled to distinguish it?"

"By his brush," briefly responded the colonel, with a smile.

"Brush!" pray what *is* a brush?"

"A *tail*, my dear fellow—a tail, resembling your well-trimmed whiskers round a broom-handle."

"How very odd!"

"You cannot mistake him; but surely you have no intention of following the hunt in that gear?" said the colonel, laughing.

"Gracious! No. The truth is, I was obliged to say last night that I had never seen a thing of this kind. It appeared Goth-like, and so I determined to venture this morning, and examine what is called, I believe, the *throw-off;* but *I've* no intention of being thrown off. Dear me! No. I abominate danger in all shapes," replied Mr. Olivier, elegantly kissing his white glove to his friend, and cantering away. He had proceeded but a few yards, when he returned, and said: "If I should see the enimel, what shall I say, colonel?"

"Not a word, if in cover."

"And if the creature comes out?"

"Halloo 'Tally-ho!' as loud as you can," replied the colonel, turning his horse's head away from Mr. Olivier, leaving him alone to ponder upon his instructed duties.

The dress of Mr. Olivier had anything but the appearance of a fox-hunter's; a superfine black coat and prunella pumps not being generally donned for the casualities of the dashing chase. His steed was slight-limbed, showy, and high-spirited, but suited only to carry a lady—*or* Mr. Charles Olivier, who was unaccustomed to flying gates, or scrambles through prickly hedges.

The hounds continued to drive the fox from one corner of the cover to the other, without effecting the desired *exit.* Reynard had no inclination to quit his quarters, although his enemies were in such unenviable proximity. Every now and then he would come to the verge of the wood and take a survey; but, disliking the appearance of the surrounding pink coats, in he popped again, much to the annoyance of many who flattered themselves that now "break," he must, and the view halloo ready to escape died into a grumble of suppressed disappointment.

Every hound now pressed close to the fox, and it was certain that out he must come, or submit to the degrading fate of being "chopped"—killed upon his own hearth, without a meritorious struggle for life.

"Tilly-hoo-oo-oo, Tilly-hoo-oo-oo-oo!" to the astonishment of all, came evidently for a broad "Tally-ho!" from some novice with the view halloo.

"For-ard, for-ard, for-ard!" shouted the huntsman, galloping towards the spot, with a few of the hounds, from whence the sound came.

"Come away, come away!" bawled the whipper-in, cracking his whip for the remainder to leave the cover and join the huntsman.

The horn winded a cheering "Hark-forward!"—horses reared and danced with delight. "Hold hard," every body said—"Let them get at it."

"Now for luck, and no checks," said one.

"He'll go for Sydenham earths," said another.

"Not he. The wind's wrong," suggested a third.

"A cool hundred that he makes for Ealing," a fourth offered to bet.

The huntsman arrived at the place where "Tilly-hoo-oo" proceeded from, and there sat Mr. Charles Olivier, perseveringly chaunting "Tilly-hoo." An observation about "a post sometimes points out the road," undoubtedly came from the lips of the old huntsman as he saw the source from whence it came. Rising in his stirrups, he took off his cap and cheered the hounds to pick up the scent.

Wagging their tails, they snuffed the earth with distented nostrils, but

no response was given. They ran to and fro, each endeavoring "to snatch the track, and lead the willing pack," but all to no purpose.

"Where did he break, sir?" inquired the huntsman, puzzled by the hounds being at fault.

"Gracious me! Close where you stand, the enimel jumped out," replied Mr. Charles Olivier, with a confidential air.

Again the hounds were tried, but in vain. No scent could be found.

"It's very astonishing," soliloquized Mr. Olivier.

"No fox has been here, I'll swear!" said the huntsman in a voice of unqualified rage.

"My good fellow, I must request you not to impeach my veracity," replied Mr. Charles Olivier indignantly.

"There's no hound in the pack of that name," said the huntsman, purposely miscomprehending the observation.

"Point out the exact spot, Olivier," said Colonel Scourfield.

"Gracious me! Why there the creature is *now*."

"Where—where—where?" was shouted in every direction.

Mr. Charles Olivier placed his glass quietly to his right eye, and pointing to the topmost branch of a lofty elm, said:

"There it is—I knew him by his tail."

Who shall describe the horror, the astonishment, and disgust of all, upon obeying the direction of the pointed finger, at seeing a squirrel, with his bushy tail curled over his head, peeping at the scene below with indubitable pleasure "at being above all danger."

Laughs, groans, and hisses proceeded from every quarter. Mr. Charles Olivier began to suspect that he had committed some mistake; but, conceiving it politic to appear cool and collected under any accident or awkwardness, he, with admirable *sang froid*, continued to look at the "enimel," and occasicnally observe that he "recognised him by his tail."

"Go home and shave young poodles," said the old huntsman, compelled to give vent to his wrath.

"I'd be glad to know whether your ma knows ye're out?" inquired the whipper-in, with a laugh which caused a decided sensation in the nervous system of Mr. Olivier.

"Flog him off!" "Duck him in a horse-pond!" "Go home!" "Get your nurse to come with you next time!" Such were the various little pleasant suggestions from the enraged sportsmen, at being subjected to the grievous disappointment occasioned by Mr. Charles Olivier's ignorance of natural history.

With fears, which were very excusable under the circumstances, the mistaken innocent felt that he was one too many. If in carving a goose the ill-shaped bird had glided into the lap of the fairest creature in the world, Mr. Charles Olivier could have imitated that refined personage who said, upon an occasion of the kind, "Madam, I'll trouble you for that goose." He could even have added: Pray don't apologise; such trifles *will* occur." However collected he would have been under such a trying ordeal, Mr. Olivier could not appear so comfortable under the present. "Flogging" and "horse pond" possessed so much of the nerve-agitating system, that, with chattering teeth, he looked beseechingly and requested "to be heard."

"Hear him, hear him," cried the majority, laughing.

"No, no. Duck him—duck him!" shouted others, among whom the huntsman's voice was the loudest.

As the reporters say, after a noisy squabble in the house, "order was restored," and Mr. Olivier thus commenced:

"Gentlemen, I certainly have mistaken an enimel, which I learn to be a squirrel, for a fox."

Roars of laughter.

"I confess my error."

Cries of "No you don't."

"Gentlemen, upon my honor I *do*," replied the speaker, placing his hand upon his heart.

A voice shouted "Tilly-hoo."

"I asked my friend, Colonel Scourfield, how I should know the fox—that is, by what feature? and he said—"

"What did I say?" sharply interrupted his friend, disliking the appeal.

"By his tail, my dear colonel, you certainly said," replied Mr. Olivier with praiseworthy decision.

Bursts of laughter.

"As if a fox had a *tail*," said the old huntsman.

"I presume, by that observation, that the enimel is without a tail. That is no fault of mine. I was informed by the colonel that the creature had a brush—"

The huntsman cried: "So he has."

"That the brush expressed tail—"

Cries of "Monkeys have tails; so have puppies; unfurl your own."

"I shall not notice the last observations, however personal their allusion," continued the self-vindicator. "The colonel also stated that I could not but know the enimel, although I informed him that I had no idea of the creature's form; for his brush or tail, which appear to be synonymous, bore a strong resemblance to one's whiskers round a broom-handle—"

Roars of continued laughter.

'Now, gentlemen, you must admit a strong resemblance exists between that little creature's bushy tail and my whiskers, both in shape and color," said Mr. Charles Olivier with a triumphant smile, pointing to the exalted squirrel.

After loud mirth for some minutes, it was unanimously decided that the speaker had satisfactorily justified himself. The sportsmen good-humouredly shook Mr. Olivier by the hand, rather too roughly, perhaps, for his delicate fingers, and some said with courtesy that they'd "back him against the parson for an argument."

"Try-back, try-back," hallooed the huntsman, and away the hounds went to pick up the lost scent. "Hark back, Musical—hark back, I tell ye!"—off galloped the old favourite leader to obey the mandate. In a few moments "Tally-ho" rang from a corner of the cover, from which burst a splendid fox, closely followed by the crying Musical.

"For'ard, hark for'ard—hark to Musical!" shouted the huntsman. The horn was blown; the whipper-in hurried on with the tail hounds, and, in an instant, on rushed the pursuing and pursued—the many for sport, the one for life.

"Gracious me! Be quiet," said Mr. Charles Olivier to his courser as the animal caught some of the enthusiasm of the sport. "Heavens, don't! I certainly—shall—not be able to hold him." Our hero was correct in this opinion; for his horse pulled upon his hands, unused to exertion, so

violently that, after a few useless struggles, he followed his own inclination by galloping after the others, to the great discomfiture of his rider.

"What shall I do?—what *shall* I do? He surely will not attempt to leap that wall!" exclaimed Charles Olivier as they neared one of tolerable altitude. Still the resolute horse approached it with a determined manner. "Heavens! I certainly shall be off!" said the rider, clinging to the pommel of the saddle with pertinacity; "I certainly shall." They were within a few strides of the wall, when the horse's ideas corresponded with his master's, that he should not attempt it. Throwing himself suddenly upon his hocks, the careful animal succeeded in preventing any accident to himself by stopping on the right side of the barrier. This quick decision, however, did not hinder Mr. Charles Olivier from enjoying a leap. The impetus had the effect of sending him in a straight line over the horse's ears—clean over the wall, like the stick of a rocket, headforemost into a duck-pond on the opposite side.

Crash, splash went the luckless horseman—Quack, quack, quack scareamed the ducks. "Gracious me!" bubbled from the lips of Mr. Charles Olivier, as he crawled from the water and the mire—"I—I—I never will see another fox-hunt as long as I breathe."

We have reason to believe that our "Exquisite at Cover" sincerely meant what he said, and as religiously kept his resolution.

> No more with him did hound or horse display,
> Rejoicing, at the loud, bold "Harkaway!"

New-York Mirror.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN ROME.

Dec. 25th.—To-day I went to St. Peter's to witness the Christmas ceremonies. This magnificent Temple never could have appeared to such advantage, though many of its beauties were hidden by the gorgeous draperies prepared for the occasion, and the splendid chair of St. Peter was concealed by a crimson throne and canopy for the Pope. This precious relic is not exposed to view, but is encased in some of the bronze *doré* once covering the Pantheon, which building, now stript of its ornaments, in its naked majesty, out-shines all of modern Rome. This chair stands in the Tribune at the extremity of the church, and back of the *maitre autel*, where repose the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul in a silver shrine, around which burn externally 112 lamps; above rises a magnificent canopy 86 feet high of the same bronze *doré*. The Tribune was covered with crimson cloth, and seats were ranged around for all the dignitaries of the church. On the left of the Tribune was a second seat for the Pope, covered with cloth of silver.

In a favourable situation for viewing the ceremonies, seats were arranged for ladies; the entrance guarded by a Swiss soldier, who grimly presented his battle-axe in the faces of the fair ones who entreated for admission before the appointed hour, or without the necessary passport. I observed, however, that he could not steel his heart against the bright eyes and honied words of a Transatlantic daughter of "la bella France," who, destitute of a ticket, thus obtained an entrance where a Peeress of England was refused.

At nine the Church began to fill with military in various rich dresses, who formed two lines up the centre aisle; of these my attention was particularly drawn to a splendid corps, comprised of young nobles of the highest rank in Rome, and forming a new body-guard for the Pope. These lined the Tribune. The more ancient Swiss guards wore the picturesque dress of the middle ages, blue cloth striped with yellow, crimson, and white; their feathers of the same hues and a stiff white ruff around the throat; their arms consisted of an antique sword and battle-axe. Their officers wore coats of mail, of which some were very splendid, steel inlaid with gold.

Soon approached the procession heralded by a faint sound of chanting, which grew louder as it entered the church. The scene was now gorgeous beyond description! The Pope was carried in a chair under a canopy of cloth of silver; his robes of the same material and his mitre dazzling with precious stones—behind him were carried two large fans of Peacock's feathers. The procession was swelled by innumerable Cardinals, Bishops, and Churchmen of all ranks, in flowing robes of gold and silver, crimson and purple, glowing like a rainbow in the sickly light of the lamps, paled by the half excluded brilliancy of the morning sun, and softened by clouds of richest incense floating from silver censers. The procession moved very slowly to music excessively solemn and touching.

The deference paid to His Holiness was more like the worship offered to a divine being, than to a weak and (scandal says,) not unerring mortal like ourselves, and was strangely revolting to the feelings of a Protestant republican. He was carried to the last mentioned seat in the Tribune, and after each Cardinal had kissed the ring on his hand, receiving his blessing kneeling, and the Bishops had knelt and kissed his foot, or rather the cross embroidered on the slipper, (as say those who wish to lay a flattering unction to their pride,) mass commenced. The chanting was most exquisite, and by the singers of the Sistine Chapel.

At length the Pope advanced to the *maitre autel* and blessed the bread and wine. He then elevated the Host, and the effect was thrilling! Every one in that vast Temple knelt; the gay soldier, the proud churchman in his gorgeous robes, the meek novice, the courtly beauty, all alike prostrated before the visible body and blood of Christ! There was a momentary clashing of arms and armour on the pavement, the entire cessation of the Chant, the midnight hush of the multitude, a silence in which we could hear only the beating of our hearts, and then from high and unseen galleries (as in the Jewish Temple), trumpets answered each other with almost unearthly tones of sweetness. The effect was overpowering, and like to the call of the last day.

The Pope then seated himself upon the crimson throne, and with great pomp the Host was carried to him, behind it always moving seven priests carrying seven golden candlesticks, illustrative of I know not what, unless the seven churches of Christendom. Whenever the sacred book was opened, a worthy priest knelt at the feet of his Holiness, and made a most uncomfortable sort of reading desk of himself by holding the book upon his head, whilst another held a candle. The ceremonies were terminated with the Benediction, and the Pope was carried out in the same solemn state to the Vatican, where he received the visits of the court and of distinguished strangers. Among these we had noticed Don Miguel, the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia, the Queen of Sardinia,

and several English Nobles, and others whose gay uniforms and court dresses enriched the scene.

When we left the church, we experienced an inexpressible relief at exchanging its close atmosphere heavy with incense, for the purer air without, where the bright waters of those ever-living fountains were rejoicing in the sunlight, and falling within their rainbows in showers of gems. The court was filled with brilliant equipages going to and from the Palace, followed by long lines of richly liveried servitors.—Through these we made our way with difficulty, leaving a scene never to be effaced from the memory. * * * * * *

Corsair,

SPORTING ADVENTURES IN NORWAY.

I set out early one morning with two attendants, well armed and provided, to enjoy that most exciting of all pursuits—the chase of the bear in a Norwegian forest. My dress was that generally worn by the Norwegian sportsman,—a coat composed of a coarse cloth, manufactured in the country, well lined throughout, and made to button close about the neck, trousers and gaiters of the same, with warm stockings and flannel, which in those countries should always be worn next the skin, linen shirts being always uncomfortable and sometimes even dangerous. The best colors are either dark green or grey, the former being the best for summer, the latter for winter. Instead of a hat I used a cap, with lappets to cover the ears, which, without that precaution, run the risk of being frost-bitten. But I must not forget one of the most essential parts of a Norwegian sportsman's equipment: the *skidor*, or snow-skaits, generally constructed of fir, covered with seal-skin, the skait for the left foot being generally from eight to ten feet in length, while that for the right is considerably shorter, the object of which is the better to enable the hunter to turn. The skidor seldom exceeds two or three inches in breadth, and are of great service to the sportsman, enabling him to glide over the vast wastes of trackless snow with a rapidity and ease utterly unattainable without them. Armed with my rifle, and a good sharp strong knife in a sheath at my girdle, I sallied forth, after a good breakfast of rein-deer flesh and coffee, to try my fortune in the forest. Nothing can exceed the grandeur of the Norwegian scenery,—its terrific precipices,—its raging cataracts,—its gloomy forests, and trackless wilds, covered with frozen snow, with lofty mountains in the back ground,—its dark lakes and mighty rivers, never fail to excite both awe and admiration in the traveller. Among such scenes I have wandered, day after day, sometimes resting on straw for the night in the hut of some poor peasant, while at others,

"My lodging is on the cold ground,"

has been literally my lot; bivouacking beside a log fire in the forest beneath the open sky with my attendants, after a hard day's hunt. But what will not man undertake when excited by the spirit of adventure, "especially when that spirit appears in the form of Diana!" On this occasion I was returning alone, after a long and unsuccessful pursuit of a bear, which had separated me from my attendants, when I met with the following accident. Having broken one of my skaits in the chase, I

had been compelled to take them both off, and trudge on as well as I could without them, and, as it turned out, most luckily for me it was, that I did so. As I was walking carelessly on, every now and then giving a loud shout to endeavor to let my attendants know where I was, and directing my footsteps by my pocket compass, I suddenly put my foot upon a pit-fall, and in a moment was precipitated to the bottom. These pit-falls are frequently used to ensnare wild animals, and in order to avoid accidents, the person who digs them is obliged by law to give proper notice through the whole district, but even this does not prevent peasants falling in. The pit-fall is made by digging a circular hole in the ground, of about fourteen feet in diameter, and about twelve in depth, having in the centre strong upright posts which come up to the surface of the ground. On these posts a moveable platform is placed in such a way that it lets down any animal that may chance to set foot on it, headlong into the pit, when by means of a spring it instantly resumes its place. The outside is covered with loose earth, snow, or twigs, and generally baited in such a manner as not to scare the animal for which it is intended. It was into such a pit I so suddenly fell, and to this day I cannot imagine how I managed to escape without broken bones. For some moments I lay as it were stunned and unconscious of my helpless plight, but on recovering my senses, my first impression was, that I must have broken some limb; but no sooner, however, had this idea flashed across my mind than it gave place to one of a real and even more alarming description. The moment I came to myself, I knew that I must have fallen into a pit-fall, but my horror may be more easily imagined than described, when a heavy breathing near me made me conscious that I was not the only tenant of the pit, but that a bear or a wolf, nay perhaps both, shared my captivity. On making this discovery, I squeezed myself up into the corner I found myself in, my heart seemed to be suspended motionless in my bosom, such was the terror of those dreadful moments. In this state I listened in breathless attention for the dreaded sounds, and my worst fears were soon, but too plainly confirmed.

Not only were the breathings of two animals distinctly audible at the other corners of the pit, but I even fancied I saw their glaring eyes fixed on me through the darkness, and felt their hot and fetid breath upon my face. Never shall I forget the agony of these moments, the cold sweat rained off my brow as I crouched on the cold earth in expectation each moment of finding myself in the fatal clutch of a huge bear. I know not how long I continued in this fearful state of suspense, but at last feeling some slight courage from what I began to consider a panic, having taken the same possession of these animals as it had of me, after a short but fervid prayer, I began to reflect on the possibility of escape. Upon feeling my clothes, I found I had not lost my knife, which I immediately drew, and to my comfort I found a small flask half full of brandy in my pocket, which I put in immediate requisition. These little moments occupied some time, for I was obliged to exercise the utmost caution to avoid making the least noise, for that I imagined would bring round an immediate catastrophe. I found myself much revived after the brandy, so much so that after another pull at the flask I ventured to stand up, but I must confess my heart beat against my ribs with an almost audible motion, while I did so; I now began to have some hopes, and still exercising the utmost caution to avoid noise, I set about feeling the sides of the pit with my hands to learn if there was any chance of my being able

to climb up them to the mouth of the pit. Instead of being perpendicular, I found they had been hollowed out so as to increase the difficulty, or rather render it impossible to climb them. I soon, however, hit upon a plan to overcome this difficulty, and immediately set about its execution. Turning my face to the sides of the pit, and my back to my fellow captives, I commenced cutting foot-steps, or rather holes in the sides with my knife, at such distances as would enable me to get to the top, a work which occupied me some time, as I was obliged to work very slowly to prevent the enemy from taking alarm. Having accomplished this, I resolved to make the attempt, but feeling anxious to take my rifle with me, which I knew must be at the bottom of the pit, I stooped down, and with my hand on the ground, began feeling around me, not venturing far at a time.

In this way I kept on feeling and feeling, still further, and further, when suddenly I thought I had found it, but imagine my horror when I found I had in my hand the huge paw of a bear. I need not add I dropped it in a second, to use a vulgar expression, "like a hot potato," but it was some time before I could recover from the shock this untoward familiarity with my dangerous neighbor and the smothered growl it drew from him occasioned. At length just when I had given up all idea of recovering my rifle, and had resolved to make the attempt without it, it most unexpectedly came to hand. I had already put my foot in the first hole and was preparing to ascend to the second, when my hand fell by accident on the stock of my rifle, which had rested with its muzzle down against the sides of the pit in the position in which it fell. This was indeed a joyful discovery, and I carefully raised it and placed it in the best situation my climbing would admit. Having reached the utmost extent of the wall of the pit, I then began to examine with my hand the wooden platform, so as to discover the best way to open it. Here again I found my difficulties return upon me, but having achieved so much, I was resolved not to be overcome, and after much trouble and labor with my knife, I at length succeeded in removing enough of the deal plank of the platform to allow my body to pass. Before I entirely removed this I made myself ready for a spring, so that not a moment might be lost in taking advantage of the outlet, as I knew very well, that the moment the opening became visible, it was more than probable the the bear would endeavor to take advantage of it. Nerving myself to the last struggle, I suddenly pushed aside the loosened board and instantly raised myself with both hands into the aperture. It was indeed an anxious moment when I found myself with the upper part of my body once more in the open air, the lower part still suspended in the pit, and felt the boards quivering under my hands. I was obliged to exercise the utmost caution, as the least mistake would have once more hurled me from the treacherous platform into the den. By keeping one hand firm on the post on which part of the platform rested, I at last, to my inexpressible joy, found myself once more at liberty beneath the canopy of heaven. My first care was to replace the board, so as to shut out the light from the pit, it being now a beautiful moonlight night; my next to pour out my grateful thanks to the great Power who had so signally preserved me. I then held council with myself what was best to be done, whether single-handed to attack the bear in his den, or to go for assistance. While holding this council within myself I examined my rifle, which I found uninjured, and carefully re-primed it. I confess that after the handsome treatment that

I had experienced from the *paws* of the bear, I felt some compunction in commencing hostilities on my late fellow captive; besides, I remembered that the same steps which enabled me to escape, might do the same for him, an event by no means agreeable, and I had resolved to leave him unmolested, when suddenly the board was shoved aside, and who should I behold but the gentleman in question, who with his huge muzzle through the hole, began making most desperate efforts to pull down sufficient of the platform to enable his carcase to pass through. Peace was now out of the question, accordingly placing my rifle as close as possible to his head, I pulled the trigger, and with a terrific growl the bear fell to the bottom of the pit, as I imagined, mortally wounded. Without loss of time I re-loaded my rifle, and while doing so heard a dreadful conflict carried on below, between the enraged bear and a wolf, whose piercing yells mingled in dire discord with the growling of the enraged bear. It appeared as if the bear had fallen on the wolf, and in his fury was sacrificing him to his vengeance; gradually these yells became fainter and fainter as the wolf expired in the grasp of his huge foe, and I could not help shuddering when I recollected that *his* might have been *my fate*. While this dreadful scene was passing in the pit I had reloaded my rifle, and again placed the board over the hole, and now stood prepared to receive another attack. As I expected, having satisfied his vengeance on the wolf, bruin once more ascended with increased fury to the mouth of the pit, and having thrown away the piece of board, commenced a most desperate attempt to break through the platform. For a moment as I gazed on his grim muzzle covered with blood, I felt almost unnerved at his fury and determination, but soon recollecting that it must be his life or mine, I once more put my rifle to my shoulder, and advanced the muzzle close to his head. My alarm was dreadful, when stretching out his huge paw the bear seized the barrel of my gun and drew it towards him; not a moment was to be lost, the gun was cocked, his own paw held it to the lower part of his neck, in another second the gun would have been wrested from me, when I pulled the trigger, this shot was fatal, the gun was once more in my hands, and the bear fell dead to the bottom of the pit. This last encounter was the work of an instant, and I could hardly believe that my deadly foe was killed. By the time, however, I had reloaded my rifle to be prepared for the worst, I heard some shouts, and soon beheld lights in the distance coming towards me, and presently my attendants, with some peasants they had enlisted in the search, and who had been full of apprehension on my account, came up guided by the report of my gun. These honest people were delighted at finding me safe and sound, but at first would scarcely credit my adventure. With assistance the platform was removed, due precaution being observed in case the bear should show fight, although but little danger was to be apprehended, each of the attendants being experienced bear hunters, having conquered bears single-handed. Their astonishment was complete when on removing the platform they perceived the mangled carcase of a wolf and a huge bear at the bottom of the pit, and when I pointed out to them the steps by means of which I had made my escape.

London Sportsman.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE BIRDS OF AMERICA.—FROM DRAWINGS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES. By J. J. AUDUBON, F. R. S. J. P. Beile, Agent.

It is now admitted in Europe, that the Birds of America are better figured and described than those of any other portion of the world. The labors of Wilson and Bonaparte were succeeded by those of Audubon, whose inimitable drawings and accurate descriptions, have brought this branch of science to a high state of perfection. He has now commenced publishing his great work on American ornithology, in a reduced size, and according to a scientific arrangement, giving good figures on stone, and all the information contained in the larger work. With this book in his hand, the school-boy may become an ornithologist.

The drawings, colouring, and printing, are all executed in America: the former reduced by Audubon from his large plates; the figures, although in miniature, are the same. It is published semi-monthly, at one dollar per number, and is decidedly the cheapest work on natural history ever published in any country.

The advantages possessed by this work over all others of the kind, are the following. It contains nearly double the number of species than are found in Wilson and Bonaparte. These naturalists omitted many species which have since been discovered by the industry and discrimination of Audubon. Whether these species existed at the time their works were published, or have since taken up their residence in our country, cannot with certainty be decided; but it is a notorious fact, that species which were never given till Audubon's work appeared, are found in the vicinity of Charleston. That this work may be relied on as authentic, the following facts will shew. The specimens were carried to Europe and submitted to various societies and learned naturalists, and all the species were admitted to be genuine. Waterton, a violent opponent, who has no knowledge of natural history, was proved to be in error, and his subsequent papers refused admittance into the Zoological Journal. In a recent catalogue of the birds of Europe and America, published in London by Bonaparte, all the species of Audubon are admitted, and he refers to that work as the only standard. The specimens found in the British museum, and those of Paris and Lyden, are labelled with the names given by Audubon.

Some additions will probably be made to our number of species of birds, and these may from time to time be added in future additions, but the work cannot be superseded by any other, and it will remain a standard work for ages to come.

NORTH-AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY; OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES. By JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK, M. D.

Three volumes of a work under the above title have already made their appearance; the fourth, we are informed, is in the press, and it is supposed that one other number will complete the work.

We doubt whether any other individual in our country is better qualified for this difficult task than Doctor Holbrook,—a Professor of distinguished reputation in anatomy, acquainted with several branches of natural science, accustomed to patient research, and possessing an analytical mind, the naturalists of Europe and America looked forward to this work as not only calculated to establish the fame and perpetuate the memory of the author, but to add considerably to our knowledge of the reptiles of our country. Thus far this work has fully realized the high expectations of the community of naturalists.

Hitherto all our knowledge on this subject has been confined to detached papers inserted in our various periodical journals. The descriptions were unaccompanied by figures, and were often so inaccurate, that no small share of the author's labours must have been, in correcting the errors of former writers. In addition to this, he has given a considerable number of species not hitherto known, and placed under their true genera others that had not been scientifically arranged. The drawings which are very accurate, were executed in this city principally by Mr. Sera. Since his death, we perceive that several native amateur artists have volunteered to carry on the work, and had we not observed their names attached to the plates, we would not have been aware that they had been executed by other hands.

We were particularly struck with an introductory chapter, on the organization of reptiles, which contains more information on this interesting subject, than we have ever met with in similar works. Although a few new genera have been necessarily added, since some of our new species could not be arranged under those hitherto existing, yet the author is fortunately no system maker,—has not loaded the science with technicalities, nor sought for display, and his work is as plain and simple as it could be rendered consistent with a scientific description and arrangement. What we admire most in this naturalist, is his desire of giving to previous discoverers their full share of merit, attaching in every instance their names to the species, although he found it necessary to arrange them under other genera,—an act of liberality and justice not hitherto practised, but which we hope to see imitated by all future naturalists.

With the excellent drawings and accurate descriptions of Professor Holbrook, the reptiles may be easily studied and known. The book in itself is worthy of perusal, did it contain no farther merit than that of enabling us to distinguish a poisonous from a harmless reptile. He has removed our fears with regard to the poisonous properties of the toad, the lizzard, and nearly all our snakes. He has even become the benefactor of the much dreaded black viper,—has divested it of its fangs, and proved it to be as harmless as the chicken-snake:

and among all our reptiles, he has left us only to guard against one species of rattle-snake, which have now become very rare, and the moccasins usually found in swamps almost inaccessible: so that ere long, although we may have no tutelar saint to drive away the snakes from our land, the poisonous ones will be exterminated, and the remainder will be harmless.

MEMOIRS OF HIS OWN TIME, INCLUDING THE REVOLUTION—THE EMPIRE AND THE RESTORATION. By Lieut. Gen. Count MATHIEU DUMAS. Two vols.: Carey & Co.

These are certainly interesting memoirs, and will be read with interest by all who seek to be informed of the stirring events embraced in the period of from 1780 to 1826. Count Dumas came out to America as one of the Aids to Gen. Count de Rochambeau, and actively participated in the campaign which closed with the capture of Yorktown, and was followed by the recognition of the independence of the United States. Returning to France, he was employed in various missions, and occupied several high and important posts of honor. He was elected to the first legislative assembly of France, and continued one of the most active members, until compelled to seek safety in England after the downfall of the Regal Government. Under the Consulate he was again brought into active military service, and was with the Emperor Napoleon in many of his campaigns, by whom he appears to have been much confided in. He was engaged in the calamatous campaign which terminated in the burning of Moscow and the retreat of the French armies. At Moscow he was taken ill, and left, with the retreating army, in a carriage. On the restoration of the Bourbons he took office under Louis XVIII. During the hundred days, he was appointed Director General of the National Guards of the empire, and in the short space of six weeks he organised and got ready to march, ninety thousand National Guards. On the return of the Royal family he retired into privacy for a while, but again entered public life. Under Louis Philippe he has been elected, though at a very advanced age, member of the Chamber of Deputies, and subsequently recalled to the Council of State, and lastly elevated to the Peerage. His, has been a varied and stirring life; and he has been an active participator in most of the great dramas which have been acted since 1780.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

For the Southern Cabinet.

"Sunt quæ curriculo pulverem Olympicum
Collegisse juvat, metaque fervidis
Evitata rotis, palmaque nobilis
Terrarum Dominos evehit ad Deos."

Such was the case in the olden time. But the Chariot Race, to which Horace, no doubt, has reference in the above remarks, no longer exists as a national pastime, having been commonly superseded by the "Horse and his Rider"—the performances of the latter, in modern times, being deemed not only safer and better adapted as a field sport, to the purposes of public recreation and excitement, but better suited to accomplish the legitimate end of Racing—namely, the *test and improvement of the present breed of Horses.*

Intending to devote a portion of our paper to Sporting Intelligence,

we have drawn up the following synopsis of what has transpired during the present season on the turf in our State, in order that our country friends, (to many of whom the epithet "delighting in horses," applied by Pindar to Hiero, equally well applies,) may, by experience of the *past*, take a hint how to govern themselves for the *future*.

The Southern campaign of the present season, commenced with the Columbia Races, on the 25th November, which brought out, besides the stables of Col. Hampton, Col. Flud, Col. Singleton, Col. Richardson, Mr. Colclough, Dr. Darby, and Powell McRa, Esq., of our own State, the stables also of Mr. Wilson from Virginia, and Lovell & Hammond from Georgia.

The produce stakes for colts and fillies 3 years old, 2 mile heats, was won by Col. Flud's ch. f. *Hermione*, by imported Nonplus, out of the dam of Little Venus, by Virginius, in 4m. 01s. and 4. 00.

The Hampton plate was not run for. Col. Hampton's imported b. f. *Emily* being the only entry, with his usual liberality, he declined allowing her to *walk over* for it, and resigned the plate to the Club.

The Jockey Club Purse, 4 mile heats, was won by Col. Hampton's ch. c. *Santa Anna*, 4 years, by Bertrand, jr., out of a Kosciusko mare, in 8. 06. first heat—and 8. 04. second heat—Track very heavy, beating *Gerow*, by Henry—and the celebrated gr. m. *Omega*, by Timoleon.

Col. Hampton also won the Jockey Club Purse, 3 mile heats, with his imported b. m. *Emily*, by Emilius, out of Elizabeth, by Rainbow, in 6. 04., 5. 58. Track again heavy, beating Col. Singleton's ch. h. by imported Luzborough, and others.

It may be remembered that *Emily* was one of the first importations of her chivalrous owner, from England. She may now, that Monarch has been withdrawn from the turf, be considered his crack nag. Her career, so far, has been very successful, indicating that she is both a fast and stout one. Out of *eight* public races she has run, she has won *six*. Three of these contests being 3 mile heats.

We regret to state that the accident that has withdrawn *Monarch* from the turf, is not the only misfortune that has befallen Col. Hampton of late. *Emily*, since her race at Columbia, and his fine filly *Fanny*, the half sister of the celebrated Wagner, recently added to his string of good ones, are complaining—besides he has lost his favorite mare *Charlotte Russe*, full sister to Trifle, in foal to imported Priam.

Zerobia, a ch. f. by imported Roman, the property of Mr. Wilson of Virginia, won the Jockey Club Purse, 2 mile heats, in the excellent time of 3. 56½—3. 58. and 4., beating six others.

Lovell & Hammond's ch. f. *Elvira*, by Redgauntlet, won the Jockey Club Purse, best 3 in 5, very cleverly,—and Mr. McRa's ch. m. *Ellen Percy*, the Citizens' Purse, after a very interesting race.

To the Columbia Races, succeeded the Pineville and Augusta Races; at the latter meeting, Col. Hampton's *Santa Anna* again distinguished himself by winning the Jockey Club Purse, 4 mile heats, in 7. 58.—7. 57. We have before us several items of interest connected with the above events, which are worthy of record, but unwilling to occupy too great a space in this, our first No., to the exclusion of other more pressing matter, we must defer the subject to a more convenient season. Our limits will only allow us to add, that the next meeting of interest in our State, will be the annual races over the Washington Course, near this city, to commence on Monday, the 17th inst. The result will be given in our next.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Agricultural Surveys.—The numerous agricultural surveys, executed under the authority of the [British] Board [of Agriculture,] were of singular advantage, because they brought to light the practices of every country; and, while they pointed out the obstacles which lay in the way of improvement, they stated the most effectual methods of removing them. The very collision of argument, which such discussions occasioned, incited agriculturalists to investigate the principles of the art which they professed, and induced them to search after new channels of improvement.

Curing Hams.—I beg leave to present to the public my manner of preserving hams. I turn my barrel over a pan or kettle, in which I burn hard wood for seven or eight days; keeping a little water on the head of the barrel, to prevent it from drying. I then pack two hundred weight of ham in my barrel, and prepare a pickle, by putting six gallons of water in a boiler, with twelve pounds of salt, twelve ounces of salt-petre, and two quarts of molasses. This I stir sufficiently to dissolve the salt, &c., and let it boil and skim it. I then let it cool and pour it on my ham, and in one week I have smoked ham, very tender, of an excellent flavour, and well smoked. When the weather becomes warm, there will be a scum rise on the pickle. By keeping my ham under pickle, it will keep the year round.

It is better to have a good white oak barrel than any other. Try it, and if you ever had meat smoked earlier after killing, and more palatable, please inform the public through the columns of your paper.

Yours, &c. H. FOWLER.

Hanover, Mich. March. 7, 1839.

Beet Sugar.—The beet sugar establishment in White Pigeon, Michigan, is now in full operation. The machinery all works well. We expect there will be some of the sugar made in a few days. Quite a quantity of molasses has already been made. We expect to tell a loud story soon.

Working Oxen.—When oxen refuse to work equally well on either side, or when they pull off against each other, yoke them on the side you wish them to work, and turn them out to feed in that way; they soon become accustomed to it, and work afterwards on either side alike.—*Amer. Farmer.*

Dahlias.—We see it stated in the English papers, that seedling dahlias have been sold in London for a price as high as sixty guineas, or three hundred dollars.

Transportation and Preservation of Silk Worm Eggs.—The Editor of the Annals of the Silk Culture in France, makes the following observations in relation to the transportation and preservation of silk worm eggs:

"We regard it as our duty to advise those persons engaged in rearing silk worms and who get their eggs from a distance, to obtain their supply a long time before the hatching season. The eggs should, if possible, remain the whole winter, and the latter part at least, in the place where they are to be hatched. Without this precaution, the hatching will take place with great irregularity, as we have ascertained by frequent experience. The eggs are liable to be injured by exposure to very sudden changes from heat to cold, about the time that they begin to take on the hatching movement."

Irish Potatoes.—I have tried the cuttings or slips of Irish potatoes, which I saw in one of your numbers, and find that good ones can be raised from the tops. I cut a few this summer, after they had got about a foot high, and planted them crosswise of a small ridge I had made for the purpose, and they were almost as large as those I planted, which I obtained from the North.—A FRIEND TO AGRICULTURE.

Management better than beating.—A trucksman in Boston, who had a refractory horse, that would not move forward, beat him unmercifully. A gentleman came along, who told him that he must not beat him any more. "What shall I do?" said the man; "my horse has stood here these two hours. Shall I stand here all day?" "Oh no, the horse must go, but you must not beat him any more. Get me a rope twice as long as the horse." The rope was brought, tied to its tail, and then passed between his legs forward; then he gave a pull upon the rope; the horse was frightened and showed signs of kicking; he continued to pull; the horse suddenly started forward, and went off without any more beating. The gentleman had seen that method tried on Jackasses in South America with full success. If you doubt it, try for yourself.

Winter Butter.—We have discovered a method by which the operation of churning in autumn and winter, may sometimes be much shortened, when it does not *gather* readily. The minute granules of butter often appear in the cream, but do not for a long time become conglomerated. A small lump of butter thrown at this period into the churn, forms a nucleus, around which it collects immediately. This simple expedient has in the course of a few months saved many tedious hours of labor.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

A Buffalo Hunt.—A party of boors had gone out to hunt a herd of buffaloes, which were grazing on a piece of marshy ground, interspersed with groves of yellow-wud and mimosa trees, on the very spot where the village of Somerset is now built. As they could not conveniently get within shot of the game without crossing part of the *vallee*, or marsh, which did not afford a safe passage for horses, they agreed to leave their steeds in charge of their Hottentots, and to advance on foot; thinking that, if any of the buffaloes should turn upon them, it would be easy to escape by retreating across the quagmire, which, though passable for man, would not support the weight of a heavy quadruped. They advanced accordingly, and, under covert of the bushes, approached the game with such advantage, that the first volley brought down three of the herd, and severely wounded the great bull leader, that he dropped on his knees, bellowing furiously. Thinking him mortally wounded, the foremost of the huntsmen leaped from the covert, and began reloading his musket as he advanced to give him a finishing shot. But no sooner did the infuriated animal see his foe in front of him, than he sprang up and ran headlong upon him. The man throwing his heavy gun, fled towards the quagmire; but the beast was so close upon him, that he despaired of escaping in that direction, and turning suddenly round a clump of copse-wood, began to climb an old mimosa-tree which stood at one side of it. The raging beast, however, was too quick for him. Bounding forward with a roar, which my informant described as being one of the most frightful sounds he ever heard, he caught the unfortunate man with his terrible horns, just as he had nearly escaped his reach, and tossed him into the air with such force, that the body fell, dreadfully mangled, in a cleft of the tree. The buffalo round the tree once or twice, apparently looking for the man, until weakened with the loss of blood, again sank on his knees. The rest of the party, recovering from their confusion, then came up and dispatched him, though too late to save their comrade, whose body was hanging in the tree quite dead.—*Pringle.*

Burning Lakes of South-America.—The following account of the "Burning Lakes," the most remarkable volcanic phenomena in the immediate vicinity of Aguachapa, is from Montgomery's Narrative just published.

"Of these lakes, or ponds, there are several; and they occupy a considerable tract of land. The largest is about a hundred yards in circumference. In this, as in all the others, the water, which was extremely turbid, and of a light brown color, was boiling furiously, and rising in bubbles three or four feet high. The steam ascended in a dense white cloud, and spread for a considerable distance round. As I stood for some time on the bank of this natural cauldron, gazing with awe upon its tremendous vortex. The heat was so great on the surface of the ground, near the borders of the lakes, that had our feet not been protected by thick shoes, it could not have been endured. On thrusting a knife into the ground, the blade, when drawn out, after a few seconds, was so hot as to burn the fingers. Our horses, which, according to the custom of the country, were not shod, exhibited such symptoms of uneasiness, owing to the state of the ground beneath them, or in consequence of the strong smell of the steam, that it was found necessary to leave them tied at some distance from the scene. In some places a little column of smoke issued fiercely from a hole in the ground, while in others, the water in a boiling state, gushed out like a fountain. The ebullitions of these lakes, or springs, have formed, on the borders of them, a deposit of the finest clay, and of every variety of colors. But it does not appear that the natives have profited by the facility thus afforded them for the manufacture of pottery. And although nothing would be more easy than to establish there the finest mineral baths in the world, this object has never occupied their attention."

A Russian Masquerade.—About Christmas, masquerades are much in vogue in Russia, and even when an ordinary ball is given at this season, it is not unusual to place candles in the windows of the house, as a signal that masks are admitted without invitation. At the period to which this story refers, namely, the Christmas of 1834, a ball was given at a house at Petersburg, which was mentioned, but I have forgotten the name of the owner, and the ordinary signal was displayed for the admission of masks, several of whom arrived in the course of the evening, stayed a short time as usual, and departed. At length a party entered, dressed as Chinese, and bearing on a palanquin a person whom they called their chief, saying that it was his fete-day. They set him down very respectfully in the [illegible] of the room, and commenced dancing [illegible] they said was their national dance [illegible]. When this was concluded they [illegible], and mingled with the general company, speaking French very well, and making themselves extremely agreeable. After a while they began gradually to disappear unnoticed, slipping out of the room one or two at a time, till at last they were all gone, leaving their chief still sitting motionless in dignified silence in his palanquin in the middle of the room. The ball began to thin, and the attention of those who remained was wholly drawn to the grave figure of the Chinese mask. The master of the house at length went up to him, and told him that his companions were all gone, politely begging him to take off his mask, that he and the guests might know to whom they were indebted for all the pleasure which the exhibition had afforded them. The Chinese, however, gave no reply by word or sign, and a feeling of uneasy curiosity gradually drew around him the guests who remained in the ball-room. The silent figure still took no notice of all that was passing around him, and the master of the house at length with his own hand took off the mask, and discovered to the horrified bystanders the face of a corpse. The police were immediately sent for, and, on a surgical examination of the body, it appeared to be that of a man who had been strangled a few hours before. Nothing, however, could be discovered either at the time or afterwards,

which could lead to the identity of the murdered man, or the discovery of the actors in this extraordinary scene: it was found, on inquiry, that they arrived at the house where they deposited the dead body in a handsome equipage, with masked servants.

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Fortunate Beggars.—There are various instances on record, of London street beggars having amassed fortunes, varying from £1500 to £3000. In one or two very rare instances they have been still more fortunate. Some years ago a woman who had stood with a broom in her hand for about a quarter of a century in the neighborhood of Charing-cross, died worth nearly £3000. She got the name, among the fraternity, of the banker, because she was in the habit of lending small sums to others at an enormous rate of interest. She sometimes also lent considerable sums to tradesmen, but never unless she received an exorbitant rate of interest. It was proved by a bill found in her possession, after her death, that she had lent one tradesman in Westminster £50 for three months, but at the monstrous interest of fifty per cent. per annum. But the most extraordinary instance of good fortune in this way was exhibited in the case of a man, a black, who for nearly thirty years swept another crossing at Charing-cross. He actually saved in that time, by his profession, £8,000. The yearly average proceeds of the man's broom were calculated at £3000. The above named £8,000, being found at his death, in the wretched hovel in which he vegetated, so that none of it could have been the proceeds of interest on stock. Another woman, who for many years swept a crossing in the Kent-road, left at her death £1[illegible] to a clerk in the bank of England, simply because he was in the habit of giving her a penny more frequently than any of the passers by, she knew.—*Sketches in London.*

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An Expensive Ram.—A funny law-suit came off week before last, between two farmers at Pownal, Vt., George Layden had a very furious masculine sheep, which he was wont to let run upon the highway. A neighbor of Mr. Layden's had also a cow, which he was driving home from pasture, with her young calf, on a certain occasion. As the cow was passing his ramship, who was grazing on the highway as usual, the ram took it into his head to butt the calf, which he knocked senseless. Both the cow and her master undertook to punish the ram for this piece of brutality, and during the attack upon him, the animal got the better of the man, and gave him a severe butting, broke one of his ribs, and he was laid up for a month in consequence. For this assault and battery, the suit in question was brought against Mr. Layden, owner of his ram-majesty. As a proper example to all other valorous rams, the jury mulcted defendant in $87 50 damages and cost.

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A Grenadier at Eylau.—At a few paces from us we espied an old grenadier. His face was blackened by gunpowder, and the blood was streaming down his clothes. His left arm had been carried away by a bomb-shell. The man was hurrying to fall into the ranks. "Stay, stay, my good fellow," said the Emperor, "go and get your wound dressed—go to the *ambulance*." "I will," replied the grenadier, "when we have taken the church," and we immediately lost sight of him. I perceived the tears glistening in the Emperor's eyes, and he turned aside to conceal them.

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A deaf and dumb person being asked what was his idea of forgiveness, took out his pencil and wrote—"It is the odor which bruised flowers yield when trampled on."

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Theatrical Stars.—One of these great modern constellations, the other evening, in the green-room, said to a poor *ill-starred* author: "*Entre-nous*, don't you think *tip-top* histrionic *talent* like mine, is badly paid at thirty pounds a night?"

"Certainly," replied the irritated playwright, "for consider your *medical* expenses."

"My medical expenses!" exclaimed Roscius.

"Ay, *entre-nous*," said the young Sir Fretful, "consider the colds and agues caught by playing to *empty houses!*"

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The Absent Philosopher at Home.—The following anecdote is related of Lessing, the German author, who, in his old age, was subject to extraordinary fits of abstraction. On his return home one evening, after he had knocked at the door, a servant looked out of the window, to see who was there. Not recognising his master, and mistaking him for a stranger, he called out, "The professor is not at home."

"O, very well," replied Lessing, "I will call another time;" and so saying, he very composedly walked away.

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Abernethy and his Pupils.—Mr. Abernethy had occasionally a most fearful practice of thinking aloud. On the day of one of his introductory lectures, when the theatre of St. Bartholomew was as full as it could possibly be, and the cheering on his entrance had subsided, he was observed to cast his eyes around, seemingly insensible to the applause with which he had been greeted, and he exclaimed with great feeling and pathos, "God help you all! what is to become of you?" evidently much moved by the appearance of so great a number of medical students, seeking for information to be fitted for practice.—*Physic and Physicians.*

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An Economical Waiter.—"You are an excellent PACKER," said Theodore Hook to a waiter at the Athenæum. "How so, Sir?" returned the other. "Why," responded the wit, "you have contrived to pack a *quart bottle* of wine into a *pint* decanter."

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At a trial in Wales, the jury, after two hours of deliberation, not finding themselves likely to agree, actually decided their verdict by tossing up!